

# Golden Japan

## November 2019

In Association With



*Award winning specialists in travel to Japan*



**Howard Travel**  
A NORAD COMPANY



## Your Japan Expert

**Quote Date:** 20 November 2018

**Quote Reference:** 2001557

**Consultant:** Sophie Walker

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### Sophie Walker

Inspired by back-packing family holidays to Morocco and beyond, Sophie set off for a mammoth overland adventure to Asia when she was 18. Travelling east on the Trans-Siberian Railway, navigating the steppes of Mongolia on horseback and trekking up monkey inhabited mountains in China. Returning with a love of Asia, she delved into the study of Social Anthropology at Cambridge University with summers spent travelling to Nepal and the Middle East. Three years later she was on a plane to Japan, travelling to Fukui prefecture on the Sea of Japan's coast to teach English to junior high school students. In her free time she travelled to the taiko drumming festival on Sado Island, climbed the sacred mountains of Mt. Fuji and Mt. Hakusan and circumnavigated the island of Yakushima by bike. After two years of living in rural Japan she returned to the UK to pursue a career in travel. Since September 2014 she has been organising awesome trips with InsideJapan as well as leaving some time to plan her own trips back to Japan as well!



### Howard Travel



"I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to escort a group trip to Japan, a country which has always fascinated me. I am confident this tour, in conjunction with Inside Japan, will give you the opportunity to really get under the skin of this incredible country." Howard.

## Itinerary in brief

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Day to Day Detail</i>	<i>Accommodation</i>
<b>Day 0</b> <b>Thursday</b> 14 November		<i>Flight from London Heathrow to Tokyo (not included in price)</i>	<i>Overnight on board flight</i>
<b>Day 1</b> <b>Friday</b> 15 November	Tokyo	Shared Shuttle Bus from Narita Airport to Tokyo Hotel  Meet your full-time tour leader at your hotel  Welcome Meeting and Dinner at Local Restaurant	Shiba Park Hotel. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 2</b> <b>Saturday</b> 16 November	Tokyo	Sightseeing in Tokyo: Imperial Palace East Gardens, Edo-Tokyo Museum and Asakusa  Dinner at Leisure	Shiba Park Hotel. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 3</b> <b>Sunday</b> 17 November	Tokyo Hiroshima	Next Day Luggage Forwarding to Hiroshima Hotel  Train from Tokyo to Hiroshima  Peace Memorial Museum  Okonomiyaki for Dinner	Hotel Vista Hiroshima. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 4</b> <b>Monday</b> 18 November	Hiroshima Miyajima	Miyajima Sightseeing: Itsukushima Shrine and Mount Misen Ropeway  Afternoon and Evening at Leisure	Hotel Vista Hiroshima. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 5</b> <b>Tuesday</b> 19 November	Himeji Kyoto	Next Day Luggage Forwarding from Himeji to Kyoto  Train from Hiroshima to Himeji  Himeji Sightseeing: Himeji Castle and Koko-en  Train from Himeji to Kyoto  Dinner at Leisure	The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 6</b> <b>Wednesday</b> 20 November	Kyoto	Full Day Private Guide Service in Kyoto  Kyoto Sightseeing: Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji  Afternoon Tea With A Maiko  Dinner at Leisure	The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. Incl. B'fast



<b>Day 7</b> <b>Thursday</b> <i>21 November</i>	Kyoto	Arashiyama Sightseeing: Hozugawa River Boat Ride and Tenryuji Temple	The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 8</b> <b>Friday</b> <i>22 November</i>	Kyoto	Next Day Luggage Forwarding from Kyoto to Kanazawa	Akaboshitei Hotel. Incl. B'fast and Dinner
	Takefu	Train from Kyoto to Takefu  Private Coach for Sightseeing in Takefu  Soba Noodle Making for Lunch  Knife Making at Takefu Knife Village	
<b>Day 9</b> <b>Saturday</b> <i>23 November</i>	Takefu	Private Coach for Sightseeing in Fukui  Make your own washi (Japanese paper)  Lunch Included	Daiwa Roynet Kanazawa. Inc. B'fast
	Fukui	Sightseeing in Fukui and Zazen Meditation  Train from Fukui to Kanazawa	
	Kanazawa	Dinner at a Local Restaurant	
<b>Day 10</b> <b>Sunday</b> <i>24 November</i>	Kanazawa	Kanazawa Sightseeing  Dinner at Leisure	Daiwa Roynet Kanazawa. Inc. B'fast
<b>Day 11</b> <b>Monday</b> <i>25 November</i>	Kanazawa Tokyo	Next Day Luggage Forwarding to Tokyo  Train from Kanazawa to Tokyo  Afternoon Tokyo Sightseeing: Shinjuku Gyoen, Meiji Jingu, Aoyama/ Omotesando  Dinner at Local Restaurant	JR Kyushu Hotel Blossom Shinjuku. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 12</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <i>26 November</i>	Tokyo	Tokyo Sightseeing: Tsukiji Outer Market, Hamarikyu and Ginza  Farewell Dinner	JR Kyushu Hotel Blossom Shinjuku. Incl. B'fast
<b>Day 13</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <i>27 November</i>	Tokyo	Shared Shuttle Bus from Hotel to Tokyo Narita Airport  <i>Flight from Tokyo Narita Airport to London Heathrow (not included in price)</i>	



## Detailed day-by-day

### Day 0

**Thursday**

14 November

#### *Flight BA005 with British Airways (not included in price)*

*We will be offering World Traveller seats on the BA5 from London Heathrow to Tokyo Narita Airport. The flight departs London Heathrow at 15:45 and arrives at Tokyo Narita Airport at 11:15. The travel time is 11 hours and 30 minutes.*

*We will also offer an upgrade supplement to World Traveller Plus and Club World seats. We will also be able to offer you flights on other days.*

### Day 1

**Friday**

15 November

#### Shared Shuttle Bus from Narita Airport to Tokyo Hotel

Welcome to Japan! You will be met on arrival at Tokyo Narita Airport and taken by shuttle bus to your hotel in Tokyo. Please note that as other people will be in the same bus there may be a few stops before you arrive at your hotel (maximum of 3 other stops). Journey time is around 2 hours from Narita. Look out for some great views as you ride the elevated highways into town.

#### Meet your full-time tour leader at your hotel

When you arrive you'll be met by your full-time tour leader for the duration of your tour. They will be escorting you throughout the tour. The afternoon is free to spend at your leisure.

#### 5000 Yen IC Card

We are supplying you with Manaca cards, Nagoya's version of the IC card. You will be able to use this throughout your time in Japan for travelling on buses, subways, over-ground railways and in some places you will even be able to pay for taxis, buy drinks from vending machines and pay for your bento in a convenience store! Your card comes with 4,500 yen of credit and can be topped up in any major city at the automatic ticket machines at any station. And don't worry - instructions in English are provided! We are sure you will get great use out of this during your trip and can have that satisfying feeling of travelling like a local! All in all, an essential accessory for any visit to Japan.

#### Dinner at Local Restaurant and Welcome Meeting

This evening we have included dinner out at a local restaurant. This will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and try Japanese food for the first time. Your tour leader will outline more details of the trip and will introduce you to some basic Japanese etiquette.

### Day 2

**Saturday**

16 November

#### Sightseeing in Tokyo: Imperial Palace East Gardens, Edo-Tokyo Museum and Asakusa

Sightseeing on foot and public transport with your tour leader. You will visit the Imperial Palace East Gardens, Edo-Tokyo Museum and Asakusa. Entrance fees are included.

#### Afternoon and Dinner at Leisure

Your tour leader will leave you in Asakusa and you are free to continue sightseeing where you'd like this afternoon. There are many interesting sites around Asakusa, from Kappabashi Street where you can find amazing kitchen utensils, you could also visit Skytree or Ueno Park. Your tour leader will give you all the best options.



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You are free to dine wherever you please this evening. Your tour leader will give you recommendations of restaurants close to your hotel.

## Day 3

**Sunday**

*17 November*

### Next Day Luggage Forwarding to Hiroshima Hotel

Your tour leader will forward your large luggage to Hiroshima so you can travel lightly there. Your luggage will arrive the following day, so you will need to take a bag with your overnight clothes in it.

### Train from Tokyo to Hiroshima

Today we will provide reserved seat tickets for the flagship Nozomi Shinkansen from Tokyo to Hiroshima. The 900km journey takes just under 4 hours. En-route look out for Mt. Fuji, Kyoto station, Himeji Castle and the Akashi bridge - the longest suspension bridge in the world. The Shinkansen train features great leg room and smooth ride - a fantastic way to make this journey.

Your tour leader will give you the chance to buy an 'eki-ben' lunch box with rice, pickles and other traditional foods in it for the truly authentic journey.

### Peace Memorial Museum

A trip to Hiroshima is not complete without a sobering visit to the Peace Memorial Museum and Park, built as a memorial to the harrowing events of August 6th 1945. The museum contains clear English explanations of the time-line leading up to that fateful day as well as the aftermath, including poignant accounts of the hibakusha A-bomb survivors.

The museum is located in the grounds of the sprawling Peace Memorial Park which provides a calm, meditative counterpart to the heart-breaking historic accounts housed in the museum. Scattered around the park are various memorials, including the Children's Peace Monument with its thousands of origami cranes, and the Peace Flame which will burn until the last nuclear weapon is destroyed. Just across the river is the iconic A-Bomb Dome, one of the few buildings in the city to miraculously survive the attack and a striking link to Hiroshima's past.

### Okonomiyaki for Dinner

This evening you'll watch how to make okonomiyaki, the noodle-based pancake typical of this part of Japan. You'll get to choose your own toppings and to savour this popular local food. It is best with a cold glass of beer!

## Day 4

**Monday**

*18 November*

### Hiroshima One Day Peace Pass

Your day in Hiroshima includes this one-day Hiroshima Peace Pass, which gives you free access to all Hiroden trams and city buses within Hiroshima city.

### Miyajima Sightseeing: Itsukushima Shrine, Mount Misen Ropeway

Your tour leader will lead the way on public transport to explore Miyajima Island (ferry tickets are included).

The first port of call will be Itsukushima Shrine, which you will have already seen from the ferry. The iconic vermilion shrine is built out into the sea, taking on a different appearance as the tide comes and goes, and it's a great place to get some panoramic photos of your trip. On the way to



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the shrine you will inevitably encounter the rather curious deer who populate the island – keep a tight hold on any maps, as the deer are known to try to steal anything! The main road along the shore and behind the shrine is lined with lots of little shops selling all manner of snacks and souvenirs, so be sure to pop in and have a look.

We've included the return ticket on the cable car to the top of Mt. Misen, but those wanting to walk down are welcome to. It's a 1.5 to 2 hour walk down to the ferry port.

## Afternoon and Evening at Leisure

This afternoon is free for you to continue sightseeing in Miyajima or in Hiroshima. Your tour leader can give you ideas of where to go and what to see.

You are free to dine wherever you please this evening! Your tour leader will give you recommendations of local restaurants.

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### Day 5

**Tuesday**

*19 November*

## 7 Day Japan Rail Pass (Ordinary)

Your package includes the 7 day Japan Rail Pass (ordinary class). The pass entitles you to unlimited travel on any trains in the extensive Japan Railways (JR) network. This includes the world-famous bullet trains (with the exception of the Nozomi and Mizuho bullet trains).

Your tour leader will exchange your rail passes for you on arrival in Japan. They will need your passports to do that.

## Train from Hiroshima to Himeji

From Hiroshima you will take the Shinkansen to Himeji. The journey takes just over 1 hour.

## Himeji Sightseeing: Himeji Castle and Koko-en

Your tour leader will arrange taxis from the station to the castle. You will have plenty of time to explore the castle, have lunch and explore the gardens.

Himeji is home to the famous 'White Heron' Castle, one of only 12 surviving original castles from the feudal era in all of Japan, Himeji-jo is certainly the most impressive with its extensive ramparts and dramatic keep rising up above the city. Just outside the castle grounds you can find Koko-en gardens, a haven of tranquillity with a range of different garden styles. The central tea house provides an opportunity to sit down, relax, rest your feet and contemplate.

## Train from Himeji to Kyoto

From Himeji you will take the Shinkansen on to Kyoto. The journey takes about 1 hour.

## Dinner at Leisure

You can choose where to have dinner this evening. Your tour leader will give you recommendations of local restaurants.

## Kyoto Two Day Bus & Subway Pass

We will provide you with a two day pass which can be used on Kyoto's extensive transport system, including Kyoto City Buses, Kyoto Subway Lines and on many of the buses operated by



the Kyoto Bus company. The pass will give you unlimited use of the transport network for two days.

## Day 6 Kyoto Sightseeing: Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji

**Wednesday**  
20 November

Today you will be sightseeing in Kyoto. Your tour leader will take you to Kinkaku-ji (The Golden Pavilion) and the rock garden of Ryoan-ji.

### Afternoon Tea With A Maiko

For many people the quintessential image of Japan is a graceful geisha in an exquisite kimono darting through a sliding screen door into a traditional tea house. It's a scene that embodies both the geisha's beauty and mystery, as the geisha and their maiko apprentices move almost in secret through a world largely hidden behind closed doors. Often misunderstood in the West, geisha are essentially artists, highly skilled in traditional arts such as fan dancing and shamisen playing and are masters of wordplay and social etiquette. Although geisha numbers have dropped dramatically since their heyday in the 1920s, in today's Japan, they are also the caretakers of these traditions making sure time-honoured Japanese arts and crafts are not lost.

The majority of geisha live and work in Kyoto and are known as geiko in the local dialect. Gion is Kyoto's most famous geisha district with a large concentration of ochaya tea houses where the geiko entertain guests most evenings. Not just anyone can enter an ochaya however; in traditional Japanese society, hierarchy and social connections are everything and most Japanese will never have the honour of an official invitation.

Fortunately InsideJapan Tours has strong ties with the Gion Maruume teahouse and we will arrange for you to visit for 45 minutes for a fascinating glimpse into the geisha world. Over a cup of green tea and a Japanese cake, you'll be entertained by a geisha or maiko who will perform a traditional dance for you. During the experience you'll be able to take photos and ask any questions you may have.

### Dinner at Leisure

You are free to dine wherever you please this evening! Your tour leader will give you recommendations of local restaurants.

## Day 7 Arashiyama Sightseeing: Hozugawa River Boat Ride and Tenryu-ji Temple

**Thursday**  
21 November

We will organise a sightseeing boat ride down the Hozugawa River from Kameoka to Arashiyama. The boat is traditional in style, flat bottomed and is guided by boatmen with oars and bamboo poles. The boat ride is 2 hours long. It's a leisurely way to see the natural beauty of the ravine. It will be perfect in November when the leaves are changing colour.

After the boat ride you will be able to wonder around the maze of bamboo groves and visit Tenryu-ji temple.

## Day 8 Next Day Luggage Forwarding from Kyoto to Kanazawa

**Friday**  
22 November

Your tour leader will arrange for your large luggage to be sent from Kyoto to Kanazawa. Take a small overnight bag for your one-night in Takefu.



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## Train from Kyoto to Takefu

From Kyoto you will take a direct Ltd Express to Takefu. The journey takes 74 minutes.

## Private Coach for Sightseeing in Takefu

A private coach will meet you outside Takefu Station and take you to the Echizen Soba Village and Takefu Knife Village, before returning you to your accommodation for this evening.

## Soba Noodle Making for Lunch

Learn to make your own soba noodles at Soba-no-Sato (Echizen Soba Village) and eat them with freshly cooked tempura for lunch.

## Knife Making at Takefu Knife Village

You'll visit Takefu Knife Village, with the opportunity to sharpen a knife and take it home as a souvenir. Considering Japan's illustrious history of blade-making, this is sure to provide a great insight into the skill.

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### Day 9

**Saturday**

*23 November*

## Private Coach for Sightseeing in Fukui

Today you will continue to explore the traditional ways of rural Japan. You'll visit Echizen Paper Village where you can watch masters at work and then try your hand at making your own washi paper. The bus would then drive through beautiful countryside to get to the partially reconstructed ruins of Ichijodani Castle Town, which was burned to the ground by Oda Nobunaga in 1573, and stop off at the beautiful temple of Eihei-ji, where we'll enjoy a lesson in zazen meditation under the tutelage of a temple priest – all the better to appreciate the quiet beauty of our surroundings.

## Make your own washi (Japanese paper) and Lunch Included

The making of washi, Japanese traditional paper, is one of Takefu's signature crafts and to start the day you'll visit a local workshop for a hands-on papermaking session with a local expert. You'll also have time to visit the Paper Goddess Shrine in the forests nearby.

## Sightseeing in Eihei-ji and Zazen Meditation

Today you'll be visiting the working temple complex of Eihei-ji today for a fascinating insight into Buddhism. Eihei-ji, meaning the temple of eternal peace, is the headquarters of the Soto sect of Buddhism, with 15,000 branch temples nationwide. It was originally built by the Buddhist monk Dogen in the 13th century. Amid a forest of cedar trees the vast temple precinct, covering an area of some 330,000 square meters, is home to seven monasteries which are surrounded by over 70 doyo halls connected by corridors. Even today, some 200 monks live at Eihei-ji. For the visitor it is a moving experience to see the priests go about their strict ascetic practice with spiritual devotion. You'll have a chance to try meditation here for forty-five minutes.

## Train from Fukui to Kanazawa

Today you will take a Limited Express train from Fukui to Kanazawa Station. It will take about 45 minutes.

## Dinner at a Local Restaurant

This evening we have included dinner out at a local restaurant.



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## Day 10

**Sunday**

*24 November*

### Hokuten One Day Bus Pass

We'll provide the One Day Bus Pass to take you between the sites in Kanazawa.

### Kanazawa Sightseeing: Kenrokuen, Higashichaya & Nomura Samurai House

Today we'll have a full day of sightseeing. Highlights will include visiting Kenrokuen, widely considered to be Japan's most beautiful landscape garden, the Higashichaya old-town district, and the outstanding 21st Century Art Museum. This afternoon you'll sightsee around Nagamachi samurai district and visit Nomura Samurai House.

### Dinner at Leisure

Dinner is also at your own leisure this evening. Your tour leader will give you recommendations of where to dine.

## Day 11

**Monday**

*25 November*

### Next Day Luggage Forwarding to Tokyo

We'll organise a luggage forward service to take your luggage to your hotel in Tokyo whilst you travel lightly on the Shinkansen back to Tokyo. Your luggage will arrive the following day.

### Train from Kanazawa to Tokyo

The much-anticipated Hokuriku Shinkansen line opened on 14 March 2015 connecting the garden city of Kanazawa to Tokyo. The Kagayaki is the fastest train on this line, and journey time direct from Kanazawa to Tokyo is now just 2 hours 28 minutes to cover the 460km (285 mile) journey.

### Afternoon Tokyo Sightseeing: Shinjuku Gyoen, Meiji Jingu, Aoyama/ Omotesando

This afternoon you're in for an afternoon of sightseeing by public transport and on foot, taking in Shinjuku Park, the atmospheric Meiji Shrine, and the amazing architecture of the Aoyama and Omotesando districts.

### Dinner at Local Restaurant

This evening we have included dinner out at a local restaurant.

## Day 12

**Tuesday**

*26 November*

### Morning Tokyo Sightseeing: Tsukiji Outer Market, Hamarikyū, and Ginza

Today your tour leader will give you a half day tour of Tokyo using public transport and on foot – including Tsukiji Outer Market, the lovely Hamarikyū Garden and the upmarket Ginza district. The tour leader will leave you here to explore at your own pace.

### Farewell Dinner

We will arrange a wonderful farewell dinner for you.



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## Day 13 Shared Shuttle Bus from Hotel to Tokyo Narita Airport

**Wednesday**  
27 November

Sadly your time in Japan must come to an end. You will transfer by shuttle bus today to Tokyo Narita. The driver will wait for you in the lobby of the hotel with a sign with your name on it. Please note that as other people will be travelling on the same bus there may be a few pick-ups in Tokyo before you head to the airport (maximum of 3 other stops). Journey time is around 2 hours and this is a comfortable and easy way to make today's transfer. We hope you have a safe flight home.

### *Flight BA006 from Tokyo Narita Airport to London Heathrow (not included in price)*

*The return flight will depart Tokyo Narita Airport at 12:55. It will arrive at London Heathrow at 17:20 the same day. The travel time is 12 hours, 25 minutes.*



# Accommodation

## Tokyo

### Shiba Park Hotel

Moderate

#### *Two Nights*

The Shiba Park Hotel is a mid-range tourist hotel in a great downtown location in Tokyo. It's a short walk from Tokyo Tower and Zozo-ji Temple (both are must sees whilst you are in Tokyo) as well as lots of restaurants. There is a nice park nearby, and you are also close to the waterfront for river boats to Asakusa. The lobby has plenty of space and seating and the rooms are of a reasonable size for Tokyo. There are numerous subway and overland stations nearby and the hotel also has English speaking staff and its own restaurants, including a French restaurant operated by a Michelin starred chef.



## Hiroshima

### Hotel Vista Hiroshima

Moderate

#### *Two Nights*

As part of the smart, simple and stylish Vista Hotel chain, the Vista Hiroshima offers a comfortable stay in a great location in the vibrant Hatchobori district of the city. Guestrooms are a reasonable size for a hotel of this grade, and come with a Japanese-style 'wet room' bathroom with a shower and a large tub.

Breakfast is a buffet of Japanese and Western dishes including some local favourites, and the hotel has convenient facilities such as vending machines and coin-operated laundry facilities. There are plenty of excellent places to eat nearby, or you could head to the famous Okonomi-mura to try out the savoury okonomiyaki pancakes for dinner.



## Kyoto

### The Royal Park Hotel Kyoto Sanjo

Moderate

#### *Three Nights*

The Royal Park Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel in a great location in central Kyoto. Rooms are of a good size and the hotel features its own restaurant and bakery cafe as well as a useful concierge service. The hotel is just a short walk from the City Hall subway stop. All rooms feature free-of-charge wi-fi internet. This is a great base for a very comfortable and convenient stay in Kyoto.



## Takefu

### Akaboshitei Hotel

Moderate

#### *One Night*

Although called a hotel your stay here will be akin to a stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan complete with onsen bathing and sauna. Akaboshitei is known for its friendly staff and great seafood. The hotel is located a 5 minute taxi ride from Takefu Station.





## Kanazawa

### Daiwa Roynet Kanazawa

Moderate

#### *Two Nights*

The Kanazawa Daiwa Roynet hotel is part of a popular chain of business hotels. The property opened in 2006 and is in a very convenient location close to Kanazawa Station. It is modern, clean and comfortable and offers all the facilities you would expect such as direct dial telephones, air conditioning, TV and free LAN internet in all the rooms. A shiatsu massage service is also available.



## Tokyo

### JR Kyushu Hotel Blossom Shinjuku

Moderate

#### *Two Nights*

Opened in August 2014, Blossom Shinjuku is a lovely mid-range hotel in a great location just a short walk from JR Shinjuku station. The hotel has bright and modern reasonably sized rooms. Free wi-fi internet is available throughout and there is a PC corner available on the first floor. The hotel's restaurant is a branch of the 'Akasaka Umayu' chain and serves a good buffet breakfast and a range of Japanese cuisine for lunch and dinner. The hotel has a convenient coin laundry.





## Price details

### Price Per Person

£3,900

**Single Supplement:** £520.00 per person (subject to room availability)

All accommodation and restaurant reservations are subject to availability, where a hotel or restaurant is no longer available, similar accommodation or restaurants within the same price band will be used.

The price does not include international flights. The flights are out of range until January 2019. In January, we will offer group flights. We estimate that BA direct flights will cost around £1,000 for economy seats, £1300 for premium economy and around £3,000 for business class seats. If you book your flights through InsideJapan Tours your package will be protected by the ATOL certificate.

## Pre/post tour nights

We recommend you book one or two pre-tour nights to give you some time to get over the jet-lag when you arrive in Tokyo. You may also want to stay one or two night after the trip.

**Pre-tour night: Twin share pp: £100 Single pp £170**

**Post-tour night: Twin share pp: £135 Single pp: £170**

## Extend your trip

If you'd like to extend your trip to visit other destinations, please have a look at our website for our self-guided Group Tour Add-Ons. Our recommended one for this tour is the Classic style of [Views of Mount Fuji](#).

### This package also includes:

- ✓ Comprehensive tailor-made Info-Pack
- ✓ Full telephone support from English-speaking staff in our Japan office
- ✓ Full financial protection peace of mind
- ✓ All taxes and service charges

### NOT included in this package

- ✗ Meals other than those detailed above
- ✗ Local transport at each destination (taxis, buses, subways etc.) except where specified
- ✗ Entrance fees to shrines, temples, museums etc. unless otherwise stated above
- ✗ Baggage Handling unless explicitly stated above (see Luggage Forwarding below)
- ✗ Incidentals such as room service, mini-bar etc.



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## Booking your trip

### ➤ **Paying Your Deposit**

Like what you've read? Get the ball rolling by paying your **£300.00 per person** deposit to Howard Travel. The deposit is non-refundable.

Once we have received your deposit, your place on the tour will be secured (subject to minimum number of 10 people).

For the terms and conditions of booking with InsideJapan Tours please click here:  
<http://www.insidejapantours.com/terms-and-conditions/>

The final balance is due 2 months in advance of the start date.

## Important Practical Information

**Fitness:** Even when not using public transport, sightseeing in Japan often involves walking between sights, climbing up steps in temples and being 'on the go' for much of the day. To enjoy this group tour you should be of moderate fitness, able to walk and climb stairs without difficulty and able to maintain a pace that is comfortable for the majority of the group.

**Single Supplement:** This tour has a single supplement, which guarantees a single room throughout the tour.

**Transport:** Please note that most transfers are by public transport making use of Japan's first-rate transport network.

**Luggage:** We highly recommend that to make your stay more enjoyable you pack reasonably light. Large suitcases will be an inconvenience to you. A small case or bag with wheels or a rucksack are most appropriate for this tour as you will have to carry your bags for short distances and some stations do not have escalators or elevators/lifts. You will also need a small overnight back-pack (for one night) for use when we forward our main bags to the next location.

**Accommodation:** All accommodation has full en-suite facilities. Please note that in Japan, Twin rooms are very much the norm, and there are far fewer Double rooms available. Please understand that even if you are being booked in a Double, this will only be in the hotels where there is availability.

**International Flights:** This tour starts and finishes in Tokyo for arrivals and departures at Tokyo Narita Airport or Tokyo Haneda Airport. The flights are out of range until January 2019.

**Check-in:** Please note that rooms at the Tokyo hotel are only available from 2pm. (You can, however, securely leave your luggage at the front desk at any time).

### **Terms and Conditions**

All accommodation and restaurant reservations are subject to availability, where a hotel is no longer available, similar accommodation or restaurants within the same price band will be used.



# 6 great reasons to book with InsideJapan

## ✓ Award-winning Japan specialists

InsideJapan has been recognised with several prestigious awards:

**Best Independent Tour Operator to East and Central Asia** | British Travel Awards 2011

**Best Online Booking Service** | Guardian Travel Awards 2014

**Best Small Tour Operator** | Guardian Travel Awards 2014



## 2 ✓ Your trip designed by a team of Japan experts

All the consultants working at InsideJapan Tours have lived in or visited Japan and have an in-depth knowledge of the country. Add to this a real passion for Japan and everything Japanese and you can rest assured you are dealing with some of the very best in the business. Whatever your interest, there is a very good chance a member of the team will have direct experience to draw upon.

## 3 ✓ Fully flexible

We believe in making sure that every trip we organise fits exactly to what our clients are looking for. Whatever your interests, your preferred style of travel, or your budget, we will create the perfect trip for you.

## 4 ✓ Our Japan Office

Our service to you does not end when you leave for Japan. Our Japan office in Nagoya (between Tokyo and Kyoto) provides English-speaking help and support throughout your time in Japan - help is only ever a phone call away! Our Japan office will have full details of your travel itinerary so will quickly and easily be able to help get you back on track in the unlikely event that you should encounter any difficulties or unforeseen circumstances.

## 5 ✓ Your Tailor-made Info-Pack

At InsideJapan Tours we aim to make your adventures in Japan run as smoothly as possible. To facilitate this, we will provide a detailed Info-Pack, tailor-made for your specific trip, full of tips, hints and information covering subjects as diverse as transport, food, language and bathing etiquette!

## ✓ AITO and ATOL - Financial Peace of Mind

6 We are proud to be members of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. Booking with an AITO member means you are booking with a reliable and carefully-inspected specialist tour operator. All AITO companies are fully bonded and governed by AITO's independent dispute settlement service, which means you and your money are in safe hands. Bookings that include flights are covered by our ATOL license whereas land only arrangements are bonded by ABTOT (Association of Bonded Tour Operators Trust) member number 5233.



## What do our customers say?



*"We could not have asked for more. Everything worked like clockwork!"*



*"Thanks for all you did to ensure an excellent visit to Japan. Everything went very smoothly, and your attention to detail was much appreciated. The information you provided, I suspect as a consequence of your local knowledge, was invaluable."*



*"The detailed guide and itinerary meant there was never a moment's confusion. The directions to hotels, train times and helpful tips were a god-send."*

*"My wife was nervous about travelling in a country area where we knew English would be often difficult but on receiving the Inside Japan sequential tickets and two clear books of very simple directions we never looked back. The car hires, time table clarity and accommodation level hit the mark for us."*



*"The assistance of InsideJapan Tours was vital to our trip and the advice, service and customer care before departure and during our trip in Japan was outstanding."*



*"The Info-Pack with locations and train information etc. was a bible for us while we travelled around and we had many thankful moments towards your help while we enjoyed our trip - it would have been very much more difficult without the info you'd given us. Thank you so much - you really did offer an excellent and well-priced service, I have recommended you to people left, right and centre and will carry on doing so!"*

*"We would highly recommend Inside Japan to anyone wishing to travel to Japan. I sincerely mean it when I say it could not have been any better."*



Further feedback can be viewed on our website,  
[www.insidejapantours.com/customer-reviews/](http://www.insidejapantours.com/customer-reviews/)



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We look forward to hearing from you!



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