

ARRIVE

LUXURY TRAVEL

Japan

SEPTEMBER 13-23, 2019

Prepared for John & Jane Doe

JAPAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

DAY 1, ARRIVE IN TOKYO

One of the World's most cutting-edge capitals, Tokyo is a city of contrasts. Famous for its cutting edge modernity, neon-lit landscape and towering skyscrapers, it is also home to sprawling parkland, peaceful shrines and temples and lovingly tended gardens. Despite its love affair with manga pop culture, fashion, high-tech trends and conspicuous consumption, below the surface is a city that has its roots in an ancient heritage. Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples stand close to skyscrapers as a reminder of a more contemplative time and at the heart of the hyperactive centre lies the serene Imperial Palace, the home of the ruling emperor that provides a tangible link to the city's historical past.

Behind the shopping, entertainment and commercial emporia can be found quaint wooden houses, private gardens with meticulously clipped bonsai trees and the Zen-like calm of the Hamarikyu Gardens. The city's reputation as a mega-expensive metropolis is ill conceived and visitors can take advantage of inexpensive izakaya bars and neighborhood cafes that serve delicious noodles and rice dishes.

TRANSPORT

On arrival at Narita Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your English-speaking assistant, who will help you with the included private transfer to your accommodation (60–90 minutes).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Mandarin Oriental Tokyo—Deluxe Twin, 2 Chome-1-1 Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City, Tokyo 103-8328, Japan

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

DAY 2, TOKYO

Breakfast at your hotel.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby.

Take a half day tour of this fascinating city with a local guide.

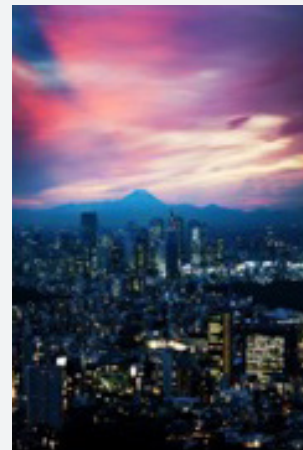
The day begins with a visit to the outside Imperial Palace, home of Japan's Imperial Family. Next is Asakusa, Tokyo's old town where you can soak in the atmosphere of the Tokyo of old. Visit Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple and wander down Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries.

Travel across town to Meiji Shrine, a shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings.

The tour will disband at Meiji Shrine, please make your own way back to your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Mandarin Oriental Tokyo—Deluxe Twin, 2 Chome-1-1 Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City, Tokyo 103-8328, Japan



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

DAY 3, TOKYO

Breakfast at your hotel.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby.

Today you will visit a typical Japanese home. Your guide will answer all your questions about Japanese culture and everyday life in Tokyo during the transfer. Learn to prepare maki sushi (rolled sushi), gunkan maki (sushi rice wrapped with a strip of seaweed and topped with soft ingredients), and igari sushi (sushi rice topped with a slice of raw fish). You will then get to enjoy your homemade sushi for lunch.

The tour will disband at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

DAY 4, FUKAGAWA DISTRICT

Breakfast at your hotel.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby.

Journey to the Eastern part of Tokyo, Fukagawa district—a serene and charming area.

Enjoy a guided stroll in the beautiful Kiyosumi Teien gardens. The first location to be designated a site of scenic beauty by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, these gardens date back to 1721 when the area was a villa for a feudal lord. In the late 19th century it was purchased by Iwasaki Yatarō, founder of the Mitsubishi Corporation, who used his company ships to transport 50 precious stones here from all over Japan and set them around a pond ringed with Japanese black pine, hydrangeas, Taiwan cherries and other plants designed to make the garden look splendid throughout the year.

A walk through this charming residential district will take you to the Fukagawa Fudo-do Temple. This large temple's main object of veneration is a statue of Fudomyo—a fierce-looking representation of the Buddha's determination. Visiting the temple itself is a very solemn and unique experience, but the highlight is the spectacular goma-kito ceremony. In this ceremony, a Buddhist priest burns consecrated wooden sticks in a large fire to give protection and make the wishes of those who offered the sacred wood come true. You will be able to observe the ceremony from close by and watch as the chief priest chants sutras and other priests play the taiko drums.

The tour will disband at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

DAY 5, HAKONE, MT FUJI

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today leave Tokyo behind as you make the car journey to Hakone, the gateway to Mt Fuji and surrounding national park, with your local guide.

To explore the National Park, you can take advantage of the numerous forms of transport on offer, seamlessly integrated with your private car. Ride the world's second longest cable car up Mt Owakudani, passing over sulfurous fumes, hot springs and hot rivers in this volcanic area,



where you can eat an egg hard boiled in the sulfuric hot springs which make Hakone famous. If you do, it will add seven years to your life! A majestic replica pirate ship will sweep you across the Lake Ashinoko, a lake formed by a volcanic eruption 3,000 years ago, and as you drive through the mountains, you will take in amazing views of the surrounding valleys.

Throughout the day you will have the chance to get a glimpse of Mt Fuji, however please keep in mind that she is a notoriously shy mountain and it needs to be a clear day.

The tour will disband at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Gora Kadan—Japanese room with open air bath, 1300 Gora, Hakone, Ashigarashimo District, Kanagawa 250-0408, Japan

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

DAY 6, TRAVEL TO KYOTO

This is a must see destination in Japan. Kyoto is the nation's former capital and was the residence of the emperor from 794 until 1868. It is Japan's seventh largest metropolis with a population of around 1.4 million and a city of culture that offers a plethora of temples, shrines and other historically priceless structures that still survive today. With 2,000 religious buildings, including 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines, as well as palaces, gardens and associated architecture, it is one of the best preserved cities in Japan and has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. Kyoto represents the "Japan of old" and beyond the high rise skyscrapers built as a monument to progress, the real monument to Japan's historical and cultural past can be found in the city's narrow alleyways where tea houses abound and kimono-clad geisha hurry from elegant function to function. This is a place to go back in time to Japan's mysterious past where echoes of the court nobility resonate at the Imperial Palace and the search for contemplation can be found in Ryoanji's Zen rock gardens.

Breakfast at your hotel.

Train to Kyoto (Green class, Japanese name for the first class, reserved seats).

The rest of the day is at disposal.

TRANSPORT

Private transfer to Odawara station. Upon arrival, you will be privately transferred to your accommodation.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ritz Carlton Kyoto—Luxury Twin, Nijo-Ohashi Hotori, Nakagyo-Ku Kamogawa, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-0902, Japan

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

DAY 7, KYOTO

Breakfast at your hotel.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby.

You will first head to Shimogamo Shrine recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is one of the most important and oldest shrines in Kyoto.

Throughout the thousand years that Kyoto served as Japan's capital city, the Imperial Court patronized the shrine as establishment dedicated to the city's protection and prosperity. Take a walk down Nishiki Market, a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen", this lively retail market specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood and sushi.

Transfer to Fushimi with a local guide. Fushimi is technically a part of Kyoto, and it is an area rich in history and charm.



Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, which was used in the movie “Memoirs of a Geisha.” It is home to over 10,000 red torii gates, which form a path up the mountain behind the temple.

The tour will disband at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ritz Carlton Kyoto—Luxury Twin, Nijo-Ohashi Hotori, Nakagyo-Ku Kamogawa, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-0902, Japan

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

DAY 8, KYOTO, UJI

Breakfast at your hotel.

Enjoy a half day tour to Uji, a traditional town near Kyoto that is famous for its superior quality green tea. Famous for its green tea, while Kozanji Temple in Kyoto is believed to be the original site of tea cultivation in Japan, Uji’s tea became better known for its superior quality in the 1100s.

After a brief 20-minute train taking you directly from Kyoto into Uji, you will first head to your tea making experience.

In a group of no more than 8 people, your guide shall translate so you can learn from local Uji residents about the kneading and drying of the tea leaves in this 1.5-hour experience. Afterwards, stroll through the picturesque town sampling tea from local store sellers. You need not feel under any pressure to purchase, but if you like Green Tea, this is a great place to purchase while you are in Japan.

The tour will disband at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ritz Carlton Kyoto—Luxury Twin, Nijo-Ohashi Hotori, Nakagyo-Ku Kamogawa, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-0902, Japan

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

DAY 9, TRAVEL TO OSAKA

The historical commercial capital of Japan, Osaka is Japan’s third largest metropolis and it has been the economic powerhouse of the Kansai region for centuries. Osaka first gained prominence when a powerful warlord built the country’s most magnificent castle in the 16th century. To develop resources for his castle town, the ruler persuaded merchants from other parts of the nation to resettle in Osaka and it became an important distribution center. As the merchant class prospered, the town grew and traditional arts such as kabuki and bunraku flourished. With the legacy of the city’s commercial beginnings still intact, Osaka is renowned as a hub for international business. It is also famous for its local cuisine, large aquarium, underground shopping arcade, and its popular Universal Studios amusement park.

Breakfast at your hotel.

Travel to Osaka.

TRANSPORT

Private transfer to Osaka (60–90 minutes).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ritz Carlton Osaka —Luxury Twin, 2 Chome-5-25 Umeda, Kita Ward, Osaka, 530-0001, Japan



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

DAY 10, OSAKA

Breakfast at your hotel.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel to take you on a tour of Osaka. First visit Osaka Castle, the largest castle in Japan when first built in 1583. This impressive castle is surrounded by impressive stone walls and moats, and sits in Osaka Castle Park, covering an area of two square kilometers.

Take a walking tour of the Dotonbori, a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. At night it is lit by hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous Glico Running Man sign and Kani Doraku crab sign. Here you will sample some of Osaka's famous takoyaki (Octopus dumplings).

A few minutes' walk away you'll find the Kamigata Ukiyoe museum, to admire the famed Japanese prints from the 18th century. You'll have the chance to make your own woodblock print, too! (The Museum is closed on Mondays and will not be visited)

The Umeda Sky Building is a spectacular high rise building in the Kita district of Osaka, near Osaka and Umeda Stations. The 173 meter tall building has an observatory on the 40th floor, and offers a great view of the city.

Suggested tour time:

09:30 –13:30

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ritz Carlton Osaka—Luxury Twin, 2 Chome-5-25 Umeda, Kita Ward, Osaka, 530-0001, Japan

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

DAY 11, DEPART

Breakfast at your hotel.

Travel to the airport.

TRANSPORT

Private transfer to the airport for your flight back home (60–90 minutes).

