

# DESTINATION ASIA

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL CONNOISSEURS

## BLACK LABEL

T R A V E L



## A TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

### JAPAN

Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Kyoto, Nara

Designed for: **Black Label Travel**

Travel dates: 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Day 1	12-Oct	Fri	Tokyo Arrival
Day 2	13-Oct	Sat	Tokyo
Day 3	14-Oct	Sun	Tokyo
Day 4	15-Oct	Mon	Tokyo - Hakone
Day 5	16-Oct	Tue	Hakone
Day 6	17-Oct	Wed	Hakone - Takayama
Day 7	18-Oct	Thu	Takayama - Kyoto
Day 8	19-Oct	Fri	Kyoto
Day 9	20-Oct	Sat	Kyoto - Nara - Osaka Departure

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DESTINATION ASIA JAPAN

### Day 1: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Tokyo arrival

Arrival at Narita/Haneda airport.

Meet your guide in the arrival hall, and transfer to your hotel by private coach (90/60 minutes).

The remainder of your day is at leisure.

Overnight in Tokyo.

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

Guiding: English-speaking guide

Transfers: Private coach

Hotel: Ritz-Carlton Tokyo – Deluxe Room (52m<sup>2</sup>)



### Day 2: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Tokyo

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to Meiji shrine by private coach.

Begin your exploration of Tokyo with a visit to **Meiji Shrine**, a shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings.

After visiting the shrine walk with your guide down the adjacent **Omotesando** shopping street, a broad tree lined avenue home to the flagship stores of the world's top fashion brands. The street that runs parallel is the **Takeshita Dori**, located in the Harajuku district which is considered the center of Japan's colorful youth culture and teenage fashion with its many unique boutiques and café's.

Next, your guide will take you to Roppongi by private coach where we will visit the **Roppongi Hills Observation Deck**.

The 238 meters tall Mori Tower is the centerpiece of the Roppongi Hills complex in Tokyo's Roppongi district. The tower houses the entrance to the excellent Mori Art Museum and the Tokyo City View observation deck. On a clear day you can see Tokyo Tower, Tokyo Skytree and even as far as Mt. Fuji!



After visiting Roppongi head across town to **Asakusa**, Tokyo's old town where you can soak up the atmosphere of what Tokyo must have been like hundreds of years ago. Visit Sensoji, also known as **Asakusa Kannon** and Tokyo's oldest temple. The Broadway leading up to the Temple is called Nakamise and this shopping street has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local snacks and souvenirs for centuries.

A private coach will take you back to your hotel.

In the evening, depart by private coach for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. The coach will take you back to the hotel afterwards.

End at hotel.

Overnight in Tokyo.

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

Guiding: English-speaking guide

Transfers: Private coach

Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Hotel: Ritz-Carlton Tokyo – Deluxe Room (52m<sup>2</sup>)

## Day 3: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Tokyo

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to Ginza by public transport.

Tokyo is known as one of the world's most fashionable cities, and **Ginza** is Tokyo's most famous upmarket district. Shopping, dining and entertainment options abound, featuring numerous department stores, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, night clubs and cafes. One square meter of land in the district's center is worth over ten million yen, making it one of the most expensive real estate in Japan. It is where you can find the infamous \$10 cups of coffee and where virtually every leading brand name in fashion and cosmetics has a presence. A guide will take you around Ginza and assist you with shopping for anything you might desire, from designer clothes to souvenirs.



You will also visit **Mitsukoshi department store**, one of Tokyo's oldest, whose basement food floor is something to behold.

In the afternoon, head to a local Samba class.

Brazil and Japan have long shared ties, with Brazil boasting the world's second largest population of people of Japanese descent, second only to Japan itself of course. The opposite is also true, with many Brazilians and those of Brazilian descent living in Japan too. This **samba class** will bring you in touch with a side of Japan that is not quite so rigid and robotic as the rest of Japanese society.

Return to hotel by public transport after your samba class.

End at hotel.

Overnight in Tokyo.

### **SERVICES INCLUDE:**

Guiding:	English-speaking guide
Transfers:	Public transport fares
Entrances:	Mentioned in bold letters
Hotel:	Ritz-Carlton Tokyo – Deluxe Room (52m <sup>2</sup> )

**Day 4: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Tokyo – Hakone**

Breakfast at hotel and check-out.

**Your luggage will be sent ahead to your hotel in Hakone.**

Meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to a sushi lesson by public transportation.

At your **sushi lesson**, learn to prepare several types of sushi, such as gunkan, maki, and nigiri sushi, each with fresh toppings and ingredients, not only limited to fish. You will then get to enjoy your very own sushi creations for lunch.



After your sushi lesson, make your way with your guide to Hakone in your private coach.

Upon arrival in Hakone, check-in to your hotel.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Hakone.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

Guiding: English-speaking guide

Transfers: Public transportation fares  
Hakone 2-day Free Pass

Meals: Lunch (sushi lesson), Dinner

Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters

Luggage: Tokyo – Hakone

Hotel: Hakone Kowakien Tenyu – Japanese Superior Room with Open-air Onsen Bath (35m<sup>2</sup>  
(45m<sup>2</sup> including balcony))

## Day 5: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Hakone

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, meet with your guide at the hotel for a departure to Hakonemachi port by local public transportation.

Throughout the day you will have a 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.

After arriving in Hakonemachi, board a **Pirate Boat** taking us to Togendai. Both are ports on the shores of Lake Ashi, which is in fact an enormous volcanic crater created by an eruption 3,000 years ago.

After arriving in Togendai you will continue your journey via **Rope Way** heading towards Owakudani.

The first thing you will notice when arriving in **Owakudani** is the smell of sulfur coming from this active volcano. There are walking trails around Owakudani that lead to steam vents and bubbling pools. The eggs they sell in Owakudani are boiled in the volcano's natural hot springs and are said to prolong life by seven years!



After visiting Owakudani head to your final stop of the day. The **Hakone Open Air Museum** successfully attempts to create a harmonic balance of nature and art by exhibiting various sculptures on its spacious grounds in combination with beautiful views of the surrounding valley and mountains. Besides the sculptures, the Hakone Open Air Museum features various indoor galleries, including a sizable Picasso Collection, consisting of paintings, prints, sculptures and ceramic creations. You can also relax your tired feet with soak in the hot spring foot bath!

Walk back to your hotel when you are finished.

Dinner at hotel. End at hotel.

Overnight in Hakone.

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

Guiding:	English-speaking guide
Transfers:	Hakone 2-day Free Pass (public transport)
Entrances:	Mentioned in bold letters
Meals:	Dinner
Hotel:	Hakone Kowakien Tenyu – Japanese Superior Room with Open-air Onsen Bath (35m <sup>2</sup> (45m <sup>2</sup> including balcony))

\*Owakudani is generally accessible by ropeway however as this area is an active volcanic zone hiking trails may be closed due to volcanic gasses. People with respiratory problem should consult their physician before visiting the area.

The Pirate Boat and Rope Way may also be closed due to inclement weather. In this case, other entrances and attractions will be arranged.

**Day 6: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Hakone – Takayama**

Breakfast at hotel and check-out.

**Please prepare a small piece of luggage with essentials for 1 night in Takayama.  
The rest of your luggage will be sent ahead to your hotel in Kyoto.**

After breakfast, meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to the town of Takayama by private coach.

Upon arrival in Takayama, visit Sakurayama Hachimangu Shrine. Here you can visit the **Takayama Festival Floats Exhibition Hall**, where four of the eleven magnificent floats from the Takayama Festival are displayed. Your guide will explain about the traditions and symbolism related to this festival, one of the most important in Japan



Finally, stop at a **sake brewery** and enjoy a tasting of Japan's national tippie. Takayama's sake is renowned nation-wide, thanks to the clear water of the surrounding area.

Your coach will then take you to your hotel for check-in.

Dinner at hotel. End at hotel.  
Overnight in Takayama.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

Guiding: English-speaking guide  
Transfers: Private coach  
Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters  
Meals: Dinner  
Hotel: Hotel Associa Takayama Resort – Deluxe Twin (35m<sup>2</sup>)

## Day 7: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Takayama – Kyoto

Breakfast at hotel and check-out.

After breakfast, meet your guide for a departure to the local market by private coach.

Start your day with a visit to the local **Miyagawa Market** along the Miyagawa River in the old town. Most stands sell local crafts and farm products such as vegetables, pickles and flowers.

Take a walk through the district called **San-machi Suji**, the traditional home of Takayama merchants and sake brewers, which has been preserved in almost exactly the same state as 200 or 300 years ago. Here are inns, shops and taverns which trace their history back many generations.

Visit the **Takayama Jinya**. Because of its valuable timber resources, the Hida Region around Takayama was put under direct control of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1692. The Takayama Jinya served as the local government office, headed by the officials dispatched from Edo. The present building complex includes various rooms for administrative purposes, offices, kitchens, toilets, bath rooms, residential space, a court room and storehouses. It was in official use until 1969, and is now open to the public as a museum.

You will then be taken to Takayama Station in your coach. From Takayama Station, you will board the Hida Wide View limited express train, a train journey that will take you to Nagoya along one of Japan's most scenic train journeys through the valleys of Gifu Prefecture.

At Nagoya, you will change to a high-speed bullet train that will whisk you to the city of Kyoto.

Upon arrival in Kyoto, a private coach will be waiting to take you to your hotel.

End at hotel.

Overnight in Kyoto.

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

Guiding: English-speaking guide

Transfers: Private coach

Hida Wide View limited express (Takayama – Nagoya, ordinary class)

Bullet train (Nagoya – Kyoto, ordinary class)

Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters

Hotel: Noku Roxy – Luxury Room (27m<sup>2</sup>)



## Day 8: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Kyoto

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, meet with your guide for a departure to Nijo Castle by private coach.

**Nijo Castle** was built by the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate as the Kyoto residence of the Shogun and is surrounded by stunning gardens. The ornamental building was completed in 1603 and is well-known for its Momoyama architecture, decorated sliding doors, and 'chirping' nightingale floors.

From Nijo Castle a private coach will take you to Kinkakuji.

**Kinkakuji**, also known as the **Golden Pavilion**, was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun. After the death of Shogun Yoshimitsu it became a Buddhist Temple at his request, and is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples, with its top two floors completely covered in gold-leaf.



In the afternoon, you will be taken to a **traditional Japanese home**, where you will take part in a **tea ceremony**. You will be shown the tradition and importance behind all aspects of this iconic part of Japanese culture. See how houses were designed and take the opportunity to ask questions about daily life in such a home.

Your coach will take you back to your hotel when you are finished.

In the evening, you will enjoy a sumptuous farewell dinner with an hour of private maiko or geisha entertainment consisting of conversation and dancing accompanied by the shamisen (Japanese stringed instrument).

After dinner, a private coach will take you back to your hotel.

End at hotel.

Overnight in Kyoto.

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

Guiding:	English-speaking guide
Transfers:	Private coach
Entrances:	Mentioned in bold letters
Meals:	Geiko and maiko entertainment dinner
Hotel:	Noku Roxy – Luxury Room (27m <sup>2</sup> )

Day 9: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Kyoto – Nara – Osaka

Breakfast at hotel and check-out.

After breakfast meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a departure to the town of Nara by private coach.

During the eighth century **Nara** was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines built at that time still stand today.

Your first stop of the day will be **Todaiji temple**, the world's largest wooden structure and home to Japan's largest Buddha, located within the expansive park.



Afterwards, go for a short walk through Nara's famous park, referred to by many as "Deer Park" due to the large population of more than one thousand tame deer who freely roam the streets and will bow their heads in exchange for a treat.

Board your coach again and head to southern Nara. You will first go to Taima-dera Temple, where you can tuck into delicious shojin-ryori cuisine for lunch. Shojin-ryori cuisine was the traditional diet of vegetables and tofu practiced by Buddhist monks, and helped create what we know today as Japan's Washoku cuisine.

You will then have a **sumo experience** at Kehayaza. Nara is said to be birthplace of Japan's national sport, and here in Nara you can experience the real culture and tradition behind this wonderfully unique pastime. Learn about the rules of the game, watch sumo wrestlers face-off right in front of you, and even have a go in the ring too!

Your bus will then take you to Osaka International Airport in time for your evening departure.

Check-in to your flight, and depart for US.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

Guiding: English-speaking guide  
Transfers: Private coach  
Entrances: Mentioned in bold letters  
Meals: Lunch

**\*\*\* End of Services \*\*\***

Additional Notes:

Itinerary and activities are subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions, river water levels and local conditions (e.g. festivals, public holidays, special events, etc.)

## PRICING

JAPAN PRIVATE PACKAGE TOUR	
PACKAGE TOUR	<i>JPY</i> <i>(per person, twin-sharing basis)</i>
Land arrangement and accommodation	760,210 JPY
Supplement for single rooms in hotels	+249,810 JPY

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation as per above itinerary in twin share rooms with daily breakfast included
- Tours and transfers as specified including entry fees
- All train tickets including reserved seats in ordinary class
- Service of English Speaking Local Guides as specified
- Meals as specified in the above itinerary (drinks are not included)

### TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International and domestic airfares
- Meals other than specified as included
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (minibar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Drinks or personal expenses or entrance fees for any extra sightseeing or optional activities
- All that is not specifically described in the text is not included.

### PAYMENT POLICY

- A 25% deposit is due April 30, 2018.
- Full payment of total amounts due is required 30 days prior to arrival date.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Any cancellations should be made in writing. Cancellation fees are according to the policies of hotels and other contractors of Destination Asia.

- Cancellation received by 60 days prior to arrival date: no additional charge
- 30-59 days prior to arrival date: 25% of total tour cost
- 15-29 days prior to arrival date: 50% of total tour cost
- 7-14 days prior to arrival date: 75% of total tour cost
- Less than 7 days prior to arrival date: 100% of total tour cost

Please note that in addition to the above, hotels may specify additional deposit requirements or cut-off dates and cancellation penalties for bookings. These will be advised at the time of final booking confirmation.



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