

AMAZING JAPAN

A cultural and historical journey

Day 1 ***DEPART for TOKYO, JAPAN***

Depart from your hometown and begin your exploration of the “Land of the Rising Sun.”

Day 2 ***ARRIVE TOKYO***

After clearing Immigration and Customs at Narita Airport you will be met and immediately transferred to the legendary Imperial Hotel. This prestigious hotel is ideally located in the Ginza district just steps away from shopping and city sights. Settle in for the night and get ready to discover this fascinating destination.

IMPERIAL HOTEL

Day 3 ***TOKYO***

Japan’s capital is bustling with excitement as you will discover during your tour of the city today. Notice the juxtaposition of modern and traditional architecture as you drive through the various parts of the city. See the impressive National Diet Building, the political center of the nation. Visit Imperial Palace Plaza, the lovely park adjacent to the Imperial Palace where the old Edo Castle once stood. In the Harajuku district, walk down the footpath to the venerable Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the Emperor and Empress Meiji who made Japan known to the world in the late 19th century. Browse the shops in the Nakamise Arcade and stop by the Asakusa Kannon Temple, dedicated to the Buddhist goddess of mercy.

Explore the Tokyo National Museum, the oldest and largest museum in Japan, housing a comprehensive collection of art works and archeological objects.

IMPERIAL HOTEL

Day 4 ***NIKKO***

Today’s excursion by private motor coach takes you through the countryside to Nikko, an ancient center of Shinto and Buddhist worship and a World Heritage Site. Visit the famous lavishly decorated Toshogu Shrine which was built in the 17th century. The beautiful Nikko National Park offers scenic landscapes with mountains, lakes and waterfalls. See Lake Chuzenji and visit one of Japan’s most impressive falls, Kegon Waterfall. Return to Tokyo in time for dinner.



IMPERIAL HOTEL

Day 8

HIROSHIMA/MIYAJIMA

Pack an overnight bag to take to Hiroshima and the rest of your luggage will be taken directly to Kyoto. After breakfast depart Okayama via bullet train for the short journey to Hiroshima. Your city tour will include Peace Memorial Park and A-Bomb Dome, an UNESCO World Heritage Site.



In the afternoon, embark on an excursion to Miyajima Island to visit its famous Shinto shrine. The present Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, dates from the mid-16th century, however it has been determined that the first shrine buildings were erected in the 6th century. Its famous gate stands about 50 feet high and has existed since the 12th century.

RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL

Day 9

KYOTO

This morning board the bullet train for the under two hour journey to Kyoto, arriving in time for lunch. The former imperial capital of Japan is one of the best preserved cities in Japan with 2000 Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines as well as palaces and gardens.

This afternoon visit Nijo Castle, one of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and Kinkaku-ji Temple of the Golden Pavilion.



KYOTO BRIGHTON HOTEL

Day 10

KYOTO

Enjoy the day exploring Kyoto and its culture. Visit the Kiyomizu Temple which dates back to the 8th century. The present national treasure sits on a hillside overlooking the city and was constructed in 1633 without using any nails. Also included in your tour of



the city is the Kodaiji Temple with its lovely landscaped garden and tea houses and the Sanjusangendo Temple which is famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy.

During your Japanese lunch you will be entertained with a dance performance by Maiko and Geisha.

Learn how to wear a kimono and participate in a Japanese Tea Ceremony.

KYOTO BRIGHTON HOTEL

Day 11

NARA



This year Nara celebrates its 1300th anniversary as the first permanent capital of Japan and today's tour will take you to see its historic treasures, including the impressive Todaiji Temple and the celebrated Kasuga Shrine. Both of these buildings are located in Nara Park where hundreds of freely roaming deer make their home.

Also visit Horyu-ji Temple whose pagoda is widely acknowledged to be one of the oldest wooden buildings in the world.

Return to Kyoto late this afternoon in time for your farewell party.

KYOTO BRIGHTON HOTEL

Day 12

HOMEWARD BOUND

Bid adieu to amazing Japan and your new friends as you board your flight home.