



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

Sept. 30—Oct. 10, 2023

Itinerary Subject to Change

DAY 1 SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Depart on flight for Tokyo.

DAY 2 SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Arrive Tokyo and transfer to Kyoto by bullet train and check into **Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo**, within walking distance of Kyoto Station and many famous sites.

DAY 3 MONDAY, OCT. 2

Visit **Kinkaku-ji**, also known as the Golden Pavillion, a Zen temple and UNESCO World Heritage site whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf.

Explore **Nijo Castle**, known as the stronghold that represents the prestige and power of the mighty leader known as the unifier of Japan. With hundreds of varieties of flora as well, Nijo is also a great place to view some of Japan's treasured seasonal beauty.

Lunch at **Ganko Takasegawa Nijo** (included) for traditional Japanese food at the once private mansion of one of Kyoto's leading merchants with a beautiful garden and riverfront setting.



Tour **Kiyomizu-dera**, a Buddhist temple situated atop a small mountain on the east side of Kyoto with a commanding view of the city.

Sample sake at **Matsui Sake Brewery**, a family owned brewery with a 300-year history.

Evening at your leisure.



DAY 4

TUESDAY, OCT. 3

Visit **Osaka Castle**, known for its impressive stone walls and moats. This imposing castle is a symbol of Osaka. Explore its rich history in the museum inside or enjoy the scenic grounds and surrounding park.

Sushi making experience for lunch (included).

Explore **Dotonbori** and the **Shinasaibashi Shopping Arcade**, considered the heart of Osaka full of bustling shops, extravagant signage, and street vendors.

Visit **Umeda Sky Building** and view all of Osaka from the **Floating Garden Observatory** at the top of the building, 570 ft. above ground level. Take in the 360-degree panorama as you enjoy a walk in the sky.

Evening at your leisure.

DAY 5

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4

Visit **Todai-ji Temple**, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and home to its world-famous bronze Buddha statue that sits at 50 feet tall.

Tour **Kasuga Shinto Shrine**, acclaimed for the thousands of stone lanterns leading up to and inside the main building.

Enjoy your final afternoon and evening in Kyoto at your leisure.



DAY 6

THURSDAY, OCT. 5

Travel to Nagaoka by bullet train and check into **Nagaoka Grand Hotel**.

Welcome dinner with Nagaoka city officials .

DAY 7

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

Visit the **Nagaoka Fireworks Factory** to see the behind the scenes for the world famous Nagaoka Fireworks Festival, considered to be one of the top three fireworks festivals in Japan.



Explore the **Teradomari Street Market**, a bustling and active fish market. Try skewered squids, scallops, and seasonal fish together with the ocean breeze.

Tour **Yoshinogawa Sake Brewery**, the oldest brewery in the famed sake producing region of Niigata which is considered the rice-growing heartland of Japan.



DAY 8

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Attend the **One Hundred Sacks of Rice Festival** for special performances and an opportunity to participate in the historic procession of approximately 500 people dressed in samurai warrior costumes.

Bid farewell to our special friends and hosts at the “sayonara” dinner.

DAY 9

OCT. 8

Travel to Tokyo by bullet train and check into **Keio Plaza Tokyo**.

Afternoon and evening at your leisure.

DAY 10

OCT. 9

Ride to the top of **Tokyo Tower**. Standing over 1,000 feet high in the center of Tokyo, Tokyo Tower is the world's tallest, self-supported steel tower and 10 feet taller than its model, the Eiffel Tower.

Visit **Asakusa Kannon Temple**, one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. A 650-foot shopping street with a history of several centuries, called **Nakamise**, leads from the outer gate to the temple's second gate. Alongside typical Japanese souvenirs such as yukata and folding fans, various traditional local snacks.

Lunch at **Aoi Marushin** (included) for traditional tempura

Immerse yourself in samurai history and culture during this 2-hour **Samurai Experience**. Under the guidance of an expert sword instructor, learn the philosophies of Bushido, the "Way of the Warrior" handle a real katana sword; and take part in a Zen meditation session.

Explore **Shibuya**, the epicenter of modern Japanese culture. Shibuya is one of Tokyo's most colorful and busy districts, packed with shopping, dining and nightclubs serving swarms of visitors that come to the district everyday.

Evening at your leisure



DAY 11

OCT. 10

Depart on flight for DFW