

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Tokyo

- Welcome to Japan!
- After completing customs procedures, you'll be transferred to your hotel by shared shuttle bus. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. I
- In the afternoon, you'll receive details about the start of your tour.

IMPORTANT:

- Please note that hotel check-in time is usually at around 03:00 p.m. If you require earlier room availability, consider booking an additional night at the beginning of your trip.
- The schedules provided in this itinerary are indicative. The guide may adjust them as needed to enhance the trip experience.

Day 2 - Tokyo

- In the morning, we'll enjoy an extensive guided tour of this truly mesmerizing city, lasting approximately five hours. Tokyo's vibrant energy and cutting-edge neighborhoods coexist beautifully with its tranquil, serene spaces.
- We'll begin with a brief stop at Zojoji Temple, where you'll capture one of the most iconic views of the Tokyo Tower. The temple grounds are adorned with hundreds of Jizo statues, intricately carved stone figures believed to be protectors of children, dressed in colorful knit caps, bibs, and windmills.
- Next, we'll head to the famous Shibuya Crossing, often hailed as the busiest intersection in the world, followed by a visit to the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife.
- Our journey will continue by bus along the elegant Omotesando Avenue. We'll then see the most picturesque parts of the Imperial Palace and its gardens and stop to admire the iconic Nijubashi Bridge.
- As we proceed, we'll pass through the vibrant Akihabara district, also known as the "Electric Town," a hub for Japanese manga and anime culture. We'll also drive past the Kokugikan, Japan's renowned sumo wrestling arena.
- We'll conclude our tour in Asakusa, visiting the historic Sensoji Temple and the famous Nakamise Street.
- Lunch will be included at a local restaurant. Afterward, we'll return to the hotel.
- At 6:30 p.m., we'll meet our guide in the hotel lobby and take the metro (tickets included) to the lively Shinjuku district. Here, we'll enjoy a stroll through its bustling streets, renowned for their vibrant nightlife, as we head to a local restaurant for dinner (included). Afterward, we'll return to the hotel by metro, accompanied by our guide.

Day 3 - Tokyo - Mount Fuji - Kawaguchiko

- Scenery: Beautiful mountain landscapes, and magnificent views on the way up Mount Fuji.

- Notes: Bring warm clothing, as temperatures on Mount Fuji can be quite low.-In winter, the ascent to Mount Fuji may be closed due to snow or adverse weather conditions. During this season, we will go as far as permitted
- Departure. We'll head toward the beautiful Mount Fuji region, traveling through picturesque countryside.
- Kawaguchiko. This charming town is known for its small houses, colorful flowers, and scenic lake surrounded by mountains. We'll start our visit at Arakurayama Sengen Park, famous for its stunning pagodas and offering some of the most iconic and breathtaking views of Mount Fuji. Next, we'll visit Fuji Sengen Shrine, a serene and magical spot surrounded by tall, ancient trees. This shrine marks the traditional starting point of pilgrimages to Mount Fuji. Here, we'll take a moment to express gratitude for the opportunity to visit such a remarkable place.
- Enjoy a relaxing 30-minute boat ride on the serene waters of Kawaguchiko Lake.
- After lunch, we'll begin the ascent to Mount Fuji along a scenic road leading to the Fifth Station, situated at an altitude of 2,305 meters. The journey offers incredible views of lush forests and majestic landscapes. You'll have time to experience the lively atmosphere of this spot popular with tourists and mountaineers, stroll through the area, and visit its small shrine.
- Note: In winter, the ascent to Mount Fuji may be closed due to snow or adverse weather conditions. During this season, we will go as far as permitted.
- Departure from Mount Fuji.
- Kawaguchiko. You'll have some free time to take a stroll by the lake before we check into a Ryokan (a traditional Japanese inn). We recommend taking advantage of the onsen (Japanese public bath) at the Ryokan for a truly unforgettable and relaxing experience. Dinner will be included.

Note: At the planned ryokan, some rooms feature traditional Japanese-style tatami mats, while others are Western-style. Occasionally, accommodation may be arranged in a Western-style hotel.

Day 4 - Kawaguchiko - Iyashi no Sato Nenba - Toyota - Kyoto

- Note: Wear comfortable walking shoes for our visit to Shiraito Falls.
- Departure from Kawaguchiko. We'll travel along a scenic road bordered by the picturesque Kawaguchi and Saiko Lakes.
- Iyashi no Sato Nenba. This charming mountain village, once destroyed by a typhoon in 1966, has been beautifully restored as a traditional open-air museum. Its historic houses now serve as arts and crafts shops, restaurants, and cultural museums, offering a glimpse into Japan's rural heritage.
- Departure from Iyashi no Sato Nenba
- Arrival at Shiraito Falls. We'll admire these breathtaking waterfalls, considered one of the most beautiful in Japan, with cascades that reach a height of 20 meters.
- Departure from Shiraito Falls. Free time at a service for lunch.
- Admission included to the Toyota Museum, a must-visit destination for car enthusiasts.
- Departure from the Toyota Museum.
- Kyoto. Accommodation and free time.

Day 5 - Kyoto

- We'll spend the entire day exploring Kyoto, Japan's capital from 794 to 1868 and home to the Imperial Court. Remarkably, Kyoto was the only major Japanese city spared from bombing during World War II, allowing it to retain its rich artistic heritage. Notably, the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions, was signed here in 1997.
- We'll include a visit to Kyoto's most iconic landmarks. Our tour will begin in Arashiyama, where we'll admire the Togetsukyo Bridge, or "Bridge over the Moon." This spot offers a breathtaking panorama of the surrounding landscape.
- We'll then visit the Tenryuji Temple, one of Kyoto's "five great Zen temples" and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, followed by a serene walk through its mystical bamboo forest.
- Next, we'll explore the magnificent Fushimi Inari Shrine; the Imperial Palace; and the Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the "Golden Pavilion," surrounded by its spectacular gardens. (The order of the visits may vary.)
- After the tour, you can enjoy some time to stroll through Gion, Kyoto's vibrant traditional district, known for its lively atmosphere and geishas.
- Afterward, we'll provide a transfer to Gion, Kyoto's traditional and lively district, famous for its Geishas. You'll have time to stroll and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of this historic neighborhood. The return to the hotel will be on your own. We recommend taking a taxi, and your guide will explain how to do so.

Day 6 - Kyoto - Nara - Osaka

- Departure from Kyoto.
- Nara. Our visit will take us to Todaiji Temple, a spectacular Buddhist site built in 752. The temple houses a giant Buddha statue and is surrounded by a serene park where you can interact with the friendly deer that roam freely. This will be your chance to take photos and enjoy the unique atmosphere of this historic area.
- Departure from Todaiji Temple
- Horyuji Buddhist Temple. This UNESCO World Heritage Site offers a glimpse into Japan's ancient spiritual heritage. Here, you can explore its seminary, monasteries, and temples, including the iconic main pagoda, one of the world's oldest wooden buildings and the oldest Buddhist temple in Japan. Horyuji remains an important place of worship and historical significance.
- Departure from Horyuji. Lunch will be included at a local restaurant before we continue to Osaka
- Osaka. Arrival in Japan's second-largest city, known for its modern skyline and vibrant culture. After check-in, you'll have free time to explore.
- In the evening, we'll visit Dotonbori, a bustling and colorful district famous for its lively nightlife, neon signs, and excellent dining options. Enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Day 7 - Osaka Himeji Castle Okayama Korakuen Garden Okayama

- Scenery: Densely populated areas, major highways, with occasional sea views.
- Departure from Osaka. We'll head towards Osaka Bay.

- Himeji. Admission to the stunning Himeji Castle is included, a masterpiece of traditional Japanese castle architecture. After exploring the castle, we'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.
- Note: If there are long queues at the castle, we recommend enjoying the beautiful surrounding gardens instead.
- Departure from Himeji.
- Okayama. We'll visit Korakuen Garden, renowned as one of Japan's most beautiful gardens, featuring lakes, waterfalls, and traditional teahouses. By crossing a pedestrian bridge over the river, you'll have the opportunity to visit Okayama Castle, a sixteenth-century Japanese fortification rebuilt in 1966 after being destroyed in a World War II bombing (visit inside the castle not included). Afterward, you'll have free time to explore the city, an active provincial capital with just over 700,000 inhabitants.
- Arrival at the hotel for accommodation.
- Note: On some dates, we may stay in Fukuyama or Kurashiki. The visit to Kurashiki may take place on the same day in the afternoon.

Day 8 - Okayama - Kurashiki - Hiroshima - Itsukushima - Hiroshima

- Scenery: Pleasant views and a serene boat trip to Miyajima.
- Departure from Okayama.
- Kurashiki. This charming city boasts a beautifully preserved historic center, where you'll have time to stroll through its picturesque streets and soak in its old-world atmosphere.
- Departure from Kurashiki
- Hiroshima. Arrival in this city, known worldwide for its tragic history as the site of the atomic bombing in 1945. We'll visit the Peace Memorial, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the poignant Peace Memorial Museum. After the visits, you'll have time for lunch.
- In the afternoon, we'll head to the outskirts of Hiroshima to board a small ferry for a 15-minute ride to Miyajima, an island renowned for its spiritual significance as a place where "man lives alongside the Gods." Here, we'll visit the iconic Itsukushima Shrine, dedicated to the guardian of the seas and famous for its torii gate that appears to float on the water. You'll have time to explore the shrine and wander through the charming center of the island.
- Note: The order of visits in Hiroshima may vary, with the possibility of visiting Miyajima first and Hiroshima afterward.
- Departure from Miyajima. We'll take the ferry back and continue to Hiroshima, where dinner will be included.

Day 9 - Hiroshima - Tokyo

- We'll return to Tokyo by bullet train, which will depart at around 8 a.m. It takes four hours to travel the 800 kilometers between the cities.

Day 10 -

- After breakfast, our journey will come to an end, leaving you with wonderful lasting memories.

Planned Hotel Partners:

Planned Hotels

SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL****

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