

Day 1 Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo at the Narita Airport, where you will be met by an assistant in the arrival lobby for private transportation to your hotel. The rest of day is spent at your leisure after checking in to your hotel.

Day 2 Tokyo

After breakfast, your guide will meet you for an 8-hour tour of the best parts of the city. You will begin in Asakusa, Tokyo's old town. Here, you will visit Sensoji, the city's oldest temple, and Nakamise, a shopping street with souvenirs and local food. You will then move on to Tokyo's Water Bus, where you'll travel down the Sumidagawa River. This will bring you directly to Hamarikyu garden, an Edo period Japanese garden. When walking through the garden, you can stop in a tea house for a cup of matcha and some sweets. After lunch, the tour will move to Meiji Shrine, a shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji. Finally, as the sun is setting, take a walk through the Omotesando shopping street, a broad tree lined avenue.

Day 3 Tokyo

Today, you will embark on another tour around Tokyo, this time with a local guide by private car. The tour will be four hours long, and start at the world's largest fish market: Tsukiji Market. While the inner market has moved to a different location, you can still wander around the outer market and admire the produce and fresh seafood. After the market, you will visit a typical Japanese home. Your guide will be there to answer all of your questions, while you learn how to make maki sushi, gunkan maki, and nigiri sushi. You will then get to enjoy your own homemade sushi for lunch. After, you will have the rest of the afternoon for your leisure.

Day 4 Hakone

This morning, a car will pick you up at your hotel and take you to Tokyo Station, where you will take the world-famous bullet train using your Japan Rail Pass. Upon arriving at Odawara, a car will pick you up and take you to your hotel for the night. The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure. You will have the Hakone Free Pass, and so will be able to use the extensive transport network. You can explore the cable cars, ropeways, and even a pirate ship that will take you across Lake Ashi with a view of Mt. Fuji. This evening, dinner is included, and you will stay overnight in Hakone.

Day 5 Kyoto

A car will pick you up in the morning and take you to the train station, where you'll take the bullet train once again to Kyoto. Upon your arrival in Kyoto, a private car will pick you up at the station and take you to your hotel. In the afternoon, you will visit the home of an instructor of one of Japan's traditional arts. One of our assistants will meet you at your hotel and escort you by taxi to the location. You may choose from Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement, Calligraphy, or Origami. You and your group will decide what they want to do, then you will get hands on instruction and support from a professional. When the day is over, your guide will drop you off back at your hotel, and you will spend the night in Kyoto.

Day 6 Kyoto

Today you will explore Kyoto with a local guide by private car, and will visit some of Kyoto's World Heritage Sites. You will start by visiting the Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion. It is a Buddhist Temple, and one of Kyoto's most famous temples. After, you will take a walk down Nishiki Market, a narrow, five block long street of over a hundred shops and restaurants. Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen," this lively market specializes in all things food related. To end the day, you get to decide where to visit. You may wish to visit Kiyomizu Temple, which has amazing views of Kyoto, and is one of their landmarks. Or you can visit Sanjusangendo, Kyoto's longest wooden structure, being 120 meters, or about 394 feet. It's famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. At the end of the day, you will be dropped off at your hotel, where you'll spend the night in Kyoto.

Day 7 Kyoto-Nara-Kyoto

Begin your day with a transfer from your hotel to Nara by car with a local guide. For 74 years during the 8th century, Nara was Japan's capital and many of the temples and shrines built at that time remain. You will start at the Todaiji Temple, the world's largest wooden building and home to Japan's largest Buddha. The next stop is Nara's most celebrated shrine, Kasuga Taisha, which is famous for its hundreds of bronze and stone lanterns that were donated by worshipers. You can wander through Nara Park, known locally as Deer Park, due to being the home of over 1000 tame deer. Upon returning from Nara, you can visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, which is famous for housing over 10,000 red torii gates. These gates form a path up the mountain from behind the temple. At the end of the tour, you'll be dropped back off at your hotel and you'll spend the night in Kyoto.

Day 8 Tokyo

In the morning, a car will take you to the train station where you'll take the bullet train back to Tokyo. When you arrive, you'll be met by a driver who will take you back to your hotel. You'll have the rest of the day free to do whatever you want. If you would prefer to end the tour in Kyoto, you can make a request and get a quote.

Day 9 Tokyo

Allow 60-90 minutes travel time to Tokyo Narita Airport. International check-in requires a minimum of two hours, however, check-in time may vary by airline so be sure and check with your airline directly. Private transfer (included) to Narita Airport.