

## DAY 1

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### Arrive Tokyo

Arrive at Tokyo's Narita or Haneda airport and transfer to your hotel in central Tokyo. The remainder of the day is free to unpack and recover from your flight.

Duration        4 Nights

Accommodation        Hotel Metropolitan Edmont

## DAY 2

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### Tokyo

A full day in Tokyo exploring the city like a Tokyoite, by public transportation. We will visit Meiji Jingu Shinto shrine, dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings. Then walk around the hip neighborhood of Harajuku and the trendy high fashion district of Omotesando. After lunch in Shibuya, we head to Nakameguro where the blooming cherry trees line both sides of the river to form an instagram worthy tunnel of pink. Our next stop is Shinjuku Gyoen, a popular large park, for an ohanami (picnic). We continue exploring Shinjuku and then head back to our hotel. Tonight we will have a group welcome dinner.

Meal Plan        Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## DAY 3

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### Tokyo

Our day starts in Tsukiji where we will explore the outer fish market with its many interesting seafood stalls. Next we will gather for a join-in group hands on sushi making experience. We will feast on our own creations for lunch. After lunch, time for some high end shopping or window shopping in Ginza. A short subway ride north brings us to the old neighborhood of Asakusa, home of the Senso-ji buddhist temple. Last stop today is Ueno Park, another popular park for cherry blossoms.

Meal Plan        Breakfast and Lunch

## DAY 4

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### Full day Hakone Excursion

Today we head out for a day trip to Hakone about 80 kilometers south west of Tokyo. Hakone is known for its famous hot spring resorts and views of iconic Mount Fuji (weather permitting). We will have a full day of activities including a boat ride around lake Ashi, a crater lake formed by a powerful volcanic eruption nearly 3,000 years ago. As well as a cable car ride to the Owakudani valley and its boiling sulfur springs. We return to Tokyo in the evening.

Meal Plan        Breakfast and Lunch

## DAY 5

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### Tokyo to Takayama

We say goodbye to Tokyo and board the shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagoya, where we connect to the scenic Hida limited express train. On arrival in Takayama in the early afternoon, we check into our hotel. After a short tour around the well-preserved historic Sannomachi district of Takayama, you will have some free time to explore on your own.

Meal Plan      Breakfast and Lunch

Duration        1 Night

Accommodation      Chisun Grand Takayama

## DAY 6

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### Takayama to Kanazawa

After a visit to the morning market, we leave Takayama and travel by train to Kanazawa located on the west coast along the sea of Japan. Upon arrival in the early afternoon, we will check in to our hotel. This afternoon, we will visit the Higashi Chaya area, home of working teahouses where Geishas entertain their wealthy clients.

Meal Plan      Breakfast and Lunch

Duration        2 Nights

Accommodation      Hotel Kanazawa

## DAY 7

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### Kanazawa

We spend the day touring around beautiful Kanazawa. Our first stop is Kenrokuen garden, a large Japanese landscape garden where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. Next we will visit Kanazawa castle. After lunch we walk to the Nagamachi district, where samurais and their families used to reside. We will enter and visit Nomura house. Last place on the itinerary today is the 21st Century Museum where we will tour the outside art installations.

Meal Plan      Breakfast and Lunch

## DAY 8

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### Kanazawa to Kaga Onsen

In the afternoon we take the train to Kaga Onsen, a small hot spring town. Relax in your Japanese style room and try the onsen (hot spring) baths. We will have a Japanese kaiseki style group dinner tonight.

Meal Plan      Breakfast and Lunch

Duration        1 Night

Accommodation Hotel Ruikoh

## DAY 9

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### Kaga Onsen to Kyoto

After another soak in the hot spring this morning, and then we leave Kaga for Kyoto, our last stop on the tour. On arrival we have lunch and then we go visit Fushimi Inari shrine famous for its thousands of Torii gates. Next is Kiyomizu Dera, one of the most celebrated temples in Japan. Not to be missed this afternoon is a stop at Maruyama park, one of the main spots for cherry blossom viewing in Kyoto. Last stop of the day is the geisha district of Gion.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Lunch

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Shijo

## DAY 10

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### Kyoto

Today we head to the northwest part of the city to visit Kinkaku-ji, the golden pavilion and Ryoan-ji zen temple known for its rock garden. Next is Arashiyama, where we will first have lunch before visiting the picturesque bamboo groves. Last stop is the beautiful Tenryu-ji temple before we go back to the hotel by train. Tonight we have a farewell group dinner.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## DAY 11

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### Depart Kyoto

Sayonara, farewell, our tour concludes today. You will be transferred to Kansai or Itami airport for your departure flight.

Meal Plan Breakfast