



ITINERARY

Tokyo – Takayama – Kanazawa – Kyoto' 8 Days Package

SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF BOOKING REQUEST



DAY1

Arrive Tokyo, Japan YOKOSO means WELCOME!

Today you arrive in Tokyo, Japan.

After clearing customs and immigration, you are met by your local representative and privately transferred to your hotel

accommodations.

Your accommodation will be at Imperial Hotel Tokyo, located in the heart of Tokyo, adjacent to Imperial Palace, and shopping districts of Ginza and Marunouchi are just minutes away on foot.

The Imperial Hotel Tokyo



Imperial Palace

DAY2

Tokyo

Today you explore Tokyo, absolutely one of the great cities of the world. The city is a fascinating mix of past and present: ultra-modern office towers, temples and shrines, beautiful parks; and neon signs and more.

Begin your tour with driving through **the Imperial Palace Plaza**, which surrounds the Imperial Palace, the home of Japan's emperor and the Imperial family. See the many

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brehtaking moats surrounding the grounds, and the spacious plaza where tour groups gather.

Next you will visit the birthplace of culture for Tokyo's common folk, **Asakusa** and the **Traditional Shopping Streets**, known as *Nakamise*. This is one of Tokyo's oldest districts, home of the oldest and most impressive temple and a collection of fascinating little shops and stores selling unique Japanese items.



Traditional Shopping Street



*Kaminari-mon
(Asakusa)*

The next stop is **Roppongi Hills**, a new urban development completed in 2003, with elegant shops, public facilities, offices and residences. The top-floor observatory affords spectacular views of Tokyo in all directions. Spare a few moments to take in the massive 360 degree view of Tokyo, one of the world's most dynamic and spectacular cities, and totally unlike any other.

Last stop of the day to visit the **Meiji Shrine**, a grand structure built to commemorate the Meiji Emperor. On the grounds is a lush, tall forest (surprisingly man-made!) that imparts a peaceful serenity not found elsewhere in Tokyo

Upon your request, if time permitting, you may be able to visit **Harajuku** area to enjoy shopping with low-prices, unique, and original goods provided by a variety of stores such as drug stores, cosmetic stores, clothing stores, cafes, restaurants, and other specialty stores.

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Harajuku

The Imperial Hotel Tokyo (B, L, -)

DAY 3

TOKYO / FREE FOR LEISURE

We would like to offer you one of the great destinations of breathtaking natural beauty.



*Mt. Fuji &
Owkudani*

Optional Tour Suggestion 1) Hakone excursion

Hakone is a wonderland of natural beauty and hot springs with the backdrop of Mt. Fuji and brisk, refreshing mountain air. Enjoy breathtaking views of mountain peaks on the cruise across Lake Ashi, ride the aerial cable car and wonder at the dynamic views through the scenic

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mountains, and visit the mysterious steaming and bubbling volcanic landscape of Owakudani. The natural sights are distinctly beautiful and leave an unforgettable impression of Japan.



Kegon Waterfall

Optional Tour Suggestion 2) Nikko excursion

Nikko is a striking example of Japanese history, with an astonishing array of breathtaking sights. You will visit the famous Toshogu Shrine, a World Heritage Site dedicated to the Tokugawa Edo Shogun.

This is one of the most elaborate and ornate shrines in Japan, with all buildings positioned on the principles of *feng shui*, with the grand entrance directly facing the North Star. Nearby is the awe-inspiring Kegon Waterfall, one of Japan's largest, and the strikingly picturesque Lake Chuzenji, both reached by Japan's most famous winding mountain road, the Iroha-zaka, with its series of scenic switchback curves.

The total experience will leave you breathless – “Wow!” is hardly enough to describe the feeling.

The Imperial Hotel Tokyo (B, -, -)

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DAY 4

Tokyo / Nagoya / Takayama

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before you are privately transferred to the Tokyo railway station to board the famed high-speed **Shinkansen** (bullet train) to Nagoya. Unlike other high-speed trains in the world, the *Shinkansen* is a common form of inter-city transportation that is safe, and always on time.

On arrival in Nagoya, you will take another JR limited express train, bound for Takayama.

Enjoy a boxed lunch this afternoon. On arrival in Takayama, enjoy a walking tour of this ancient city.

Takayama is established in the 1500s as a castle town, it retains the old charm with its ryokans, breweries for sake and craft shops.

First visit the **Yatai Kaikan**, or Festival Floats Exhibition Hall features the huge floats, decorated with intricate carvings, gilded wood, and detailed metalwork, that are paraded through streets during the Hachiman



Festival in Takayama in autumn.



The Kusakabe Folkcraft Museum

Festival in Takayama in autumn.

The Kusakabe Folkcraft Museum, formerly the residence of the Kusakabe family, has been designated an Important Cultural Property because it is a prime example of Meiji Era architecture. The present building dates from 1879. It is built of Japanese cypress (hinoki), and the construction is sturdy, thanks to the combination of beams and pillars. The roof slants slightly with moderate eaves; the window has several

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slender lattices. Some items on exhibit are related to the Kusabe's business of money lending: money chests, coin, bags, cases for account books, measures for gold, and

After strolling through **the ancient streets of Takayama**, you will be privately transferred to your accommodations at the Hotel Associa Takayama Resort.

This hotel is located in the Takayama Highlands surrounded by deep forests and mountains. All rooms window have views of the Japanese Alps. Local and international cuisine is served in the hotel restaurants. You may also wish to take advantage of the hotel's free shuttle service available to downtown Takayama.

Hotel Associa Takayama Resort (B, L, -)

DAY5

Takayama / Shirakawago / Kanazawa

After visiting the **morning market** in Takayama, transfer to the World Heritage site, Shirakawago for your full day program today. Shirakawago was designated part of the World Heritage in 1995.



The style is called gassho-zukuri, hands-clasped in prayer style, since this is what the roof resembles.

The heavy snowfalls that visit this straggling village in the gorge of the Shokawa river led people to build farmhouses of 60-degree pitch.

This is an open-air museum of traditional architecture.

In Shirakawago, you visit **Toyama-ke**, one of the largest and most beautiful houses in this area. Following your sightseeing in Shirakawago, you depart for Kanazawa.

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Kanazawa Nikko Hotel (B, L, -)



*Kyoto
image*

DAY6

Kanazawa / Kyoto

Following breakfast,

Today you have half day of sightseeing in Kanazawa beginning with a stroll through **Kenrokuen**, a splendid, large garden first built around 1670.

Kenrokuen is counted as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. It was originally a private garden next to Kanazawa Castle. The Maeda family, who ruled from the castle, developed the garden from the 1620s to 1840s. It is a stroll-type landscape garden spreading over 100,000 square meters.



Samurai District



Kenrokuen

Continue to **Nagamachi Samurai District** and visit the **Nomura**

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House, a samurai house rebuilt at the turn-of-the-century in that period's style.

Following your sightseeing, you are transferred to the Kanazawa railway station for your JR Limited Express train to Kyoto.

On arrival in Kyoto, you are met and privately transferred to your accommodations at Kyoto Hotel Okura for 2 nights.

Kyoto Hotel Okura (B, L, -)



*Ganko
Takasegawa
Nijo-en*

DAY7

Kyoto

Today you meet with your guide for a full day sightseeing tour of Kyoto.

Kyoto is a World Heritage Site for its wealth of Traditional Japanese temples, shrines and historical landmarks.

First you will visit **Nijo Castle**, the Edo Shogun's residence, which contains a spectacular array of cultural treasures.

The next stop is **The Golden Pavilion**, the most famous among traditional Japanese architectural masterpieces. Its walls are covered in gold leaf, with the roof topped by a bronze phoenix. The reflection of the temple shimmers majestically in the waters of a rock-studded pond.

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The Heian Shrine, with its gorgeous vermilion-hued brilliance and lovely inner garden, was built in 1895 to mark the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto. It is also one of Kyoto's newest historical sites. The shrine is dedicated to two emperors: Kammu (737-806, who founded the city in 794, and Komei (1831-1866), the last emperor to live out his reign in Kyoto.

The last stop is **Kiyomizu temple**, a massive grand structure at the top of a cliff overlooking the neatly lined streets of Kyoto. Enjoy this stunning panoramic view from its broad wooden veranda.



Junsei

In the evening, you are free at leisure.

Why not try dinner at one of the several restaurants in Kyoto famous for its dazzling variety of Japanese cuisine. **Ganko Takasegawa Nijo-en** is an elegant restaurant famous for its native Kyoto-style multi-course dinners using the freshest ingredients available. Flavors are light and natural, and meals are extremely healthful.

Junsei specializes in yudofu, a traditional dish of tofu served in a kelp broth. Prepared with the extremely clean water of Kyoto, this delicious example of Japanese cuisine is popular with healthconscious diners. Traditional specialties like *shabu-shabu* and *sukiyaki* are also available.



Oumi

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Oumi is famous for Oumi beef, one of the highest grades available in Japan. Incredibly soft, flavorful and juicy, it is grilled exactly to the customer's preference, right before their eyes. Try the authentic *teppan-yaki* style, which is now popular worldwide.

Kyoto Hotel Okura (B, L, -)

DAY8

Kyoto

After breakfast, free at leisure

Private transfer to Kansai Airport for your international flight back home.

**** End of Services****

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Quotation:

1. TOUR FARE: In Net AUD per person on 1/2 twin room basis valid for **Mar-Oct, 2008.**

<Basic Tour>

Full Paying pax	2	Single Supplement
plus Free:	0	---
Hotel Plan 1 (Imperial Hotel Tokyo):	7,349	1,011
Hotel Plan 2 (Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo):	6,866	737

<Optional Tour-Chartered basis>

Full Paying pax	2
plus Free:	0
Full-day SS of Nikko	1,098
Full-day SS of Fuji & Hakone	1,165

<Optional Tour-Sunrise Tour (seat-in-coach) basis>

Full Paying pax	2
plus Free:	0
F330 (Nikko)	170
F800 (Fuji & Hakone)	189

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** Rates are subject to changes due to currency fluctuations**

Rates are for Mar-Oct 2008, kindly contact us for rates after the stated period

2. CONDITIONS:

HOTELS:	As mentioned in the itinerary. Rooms by standard category. Hotel space is subject to confirmation.
MEALS:	7 breakfasts and 5 lunches included in Basic Tour. 1 lunches included for each Optional Tour.
TRANSFER & S/S:	By chartered bus. Otherwise, as mentioned in the itinerary.
GUIDE:	English-speaking local guide for Day.2, 3 (Optional) 4 through to 7.
ASSISTANT:	English-speaking local assistant for Day.1 and 8.
SUNRISE TOUR:	Seat-in coach basis with English-speaking guide.
JR TRAINS:	Tourist class reserved seat on super express and limited express. Non-reserved seat on local train.
FERRY:	Tourist class.
ADMISSIONS:	As mentioned in the itinerary.
BAGGAGE HANDLING:	1 piece per person included. *Baggage will be separately transported by truck, as follows. Day.4: Tokyo / Kyoto (Skipping Takayama & Kanazawa) *Please arrange an overnight bag for a stay at skipping cities.

3. IMPORTANT NOTICES:

**All Airport transfers:

All Airport transfers will be arranged with English Speaking Assistant, and all sightseeing tours will be arranged with English Speaking Guide.

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****Deadline for Tour Operation:**

All requests must be finalized **1 Month** before the Operation Date with the following information:

- Full Name of the clients
- Number of requested Rooms / Types of Rooms
- Arrival and Departure Flight Details

****Cancellation Policy by our operator**

If notice of cancellation is received by our operator 7 days or more (working days) prior to the Arrival date of the tour = No Charge.

If notice of cancellation is received by our operator 6 days to 3 days (working days) prior to the Arrival date of the tour = 10% of the Tour Fare.

If notice of cancellation is received by our operator 2 days (working days) prior to the Arrival date of the tour = 20% of the Tour Fare.

If notice of cancellation is received by our operator 1 days (working days) prior to the Arrival date of the tour = 50% of the Tour Fare

If notice of cancellation is received by our operator on the Arrival date of the tour or no notification is given = 100% of the Tour Fare

****Please feel free to contact us for more information or for further discussion****

****Tour proposal can be tailored to each individual bookings****

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