



# JAPAN 2025

MAY 22 - JUNE 4

*Come visit this Far Eastern island, where tradition meets technology to create one of the world's most unique nations. Zigzag around the metropolitan area of Tokyo to taste its savory cuisine and immerse yourself in the nightlife of Shibuya and Shinjuku. Head west to Kanazawa and Kyoto, where over a thousand years of history and culture reside. Continue on to Hiroshima to contemplate the horrors of war, and to eat the city's soul food: okonomiyaki. Finish basking in a hot spring in the mountains of Hakone, while collecting your thoughts before Mt. Fuji.*

## DAY 1 . . . .

Arrive in Tokyo in the afternoon. Transfer to hotel via JR trains. Rest, dine, and recover from jet lag. Orientation meeting and welcome dinner. Stay in Tokyo for 4 nights.

## DAY 2 . . . .

Start your morning by visiting Tokyo's largest temple, Senso-ji. Visit the glitzy Ginza boulevard.

## DAY 3 . . . .

Head over to the world's largest fish market in Toyosu. Meet the famous loyal dog Hachiko in Shibuya and cross the world's busiest pedestrian crossing. Check out the bustle at Shinjuku, the busiest train station in the world. Have dinner at a Deaf-owned restaurant, Fusao, near Shinjuku.

## DAY 4 . . . .

Visit Meisei Gakuen, the only bi-bi school for the Deaf in Japan, to meet and observe young Deaf pupils signing Japanese Sign Language. After lunch, go to Ryogoku to see the Edo-Tokyo museum to learn all about the history in Tokyo. Use the free time in the evening to do some shopping.

## DAY 5 . . . .

Take the shinkansen to Kanazawa. Allow the wonders of one of Japan's top gardens, Kenrokuen, to calm your soul. Amble through the streets of Higashi-Chaya district and ponder what it was like living in Japan under the shogunate 200 years ago. Stay in Kanazawa for 2 nights.

## DAY 6 . . . .

Board on early morning train to mountainous Hida region to Shirakawago, a beautiful folk village, to see unique wooden houses built to withstand the harsh winters. Go back to Kanazawa to do some independent sightseeing and shopping.

#### DAY 7 • • •

Take a limited express train straight to Kyoto. Go to Arashiyama to visit a Deaf research center, and tour the area to experience the mystique of a bamboo forest. Learn about the Japanese version of dragons by visiting the giant dragon mural in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tenryu-ji. Become in peace by watching the serene landscape around Tenryu-ji. *Stay in Kyoto for 3 nights.*

#### DAY 8 • • •

Get up early in the morning to see the thousand red torii in Fushimi before the morning tourist rush. Then go to Higashiyama to see the famous Kiyomizu-dera temple. Rent a kimono and walk through cobblestoned streets. Do some shopping in the area and experience the traditional Tea Ceremony. Tour the Gion district at night to hunt for geisha sightings. Dress up in kimono is optional.

#### DAY 9 • • •

Take the train straight to Nara, about 50 km south of Kyoto. Bow to the deer, which are free to roam around the Nara Park, and some of them will bow back. Be in awe of the giant and magnificent Buddha Statue in Todaiji. Use the afternoon time off to buy artisan gifts or visit more stunning temples.

#### DAY 10 • • •

Shinkansen to Hiroshima. After lunch, visit the Peace Memorial Building and learn how much the locals suffered during and after the A-bomb. Chow down the famous Okonomiyaki, the soul food of Hiroshima. *Stay in Hiroshima for 2 nights.*

#### DAY 11 • • •

Take the morning ferry to see the scenic Miyajima Island, known as the Island of Gods. See the iconic giant red torii “floating” on the lake during low and high tides. Take your time to amble around the island to discover many treasures hiding.

#### DAY 12 • • •

Take the shinkansen to Odawara, and then switch to a train to Hakone-Yumoto. Stay at a traditional Japanese inn, called a ryokan, and experience a Japanese-style dinner. Bathe in a hot springs. *Stay in Hakone for 2 nights.*

#### DAY 13 • • •

Go on a full-day tour around the mountains of Hakone, seeing the sulphur fumes of Owakudani, perhaps eat their black eggs! Wonder at the mind-bending art of Hakone Open-Air Museum. Marvel at the grandeur of Mt. Fuji by Lake Ashi, weather permitting. Have farewell dinner at Hakone-Yumoto.

#### DAY 14 • • •

Board on early morning train to airport for your afternoon return flight home.

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\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

**\$4,350**  
per person /double occupancy

**14 DAYS**

**GROUP MAX: 14 people**

**TOUR LEADER:** Martin Dale-Hench • [martin@handson.travel](mailto:martin@handson.travel)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 13 nights in 3-star and 4-star accommodations.
- 15 meals: Breakfast (13), Dinner (2)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Dress up in kimono in Kyoto is optional. Day rental is approximately \$30 per person.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

## WHAT TO EXPECT?

- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- There will be limited airport pick up and drop off windows at the start and end of the tour. Early/late arrivals and early/late departures outside of pick up or drop off windows are not included.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.  
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more, please view the following link:  
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**