



# Experience Japan

Classic Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 1

OSAKA – NARA – KYOTO – YUDANAKA – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO – MOUNT FUJI –  
MISHIMA – KAMAKURA – TOKYO

This tour not only visits the famous sights of Japan including Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Mt Fuji and Tokyo but is brim full of experiences allowing you to immerse in the local culture! From a tea ceremony and origami to fan painting, miso tasting and sake tasting!

- Discover delightful Nara
- Visit Matsumoto & Osaka castles
- Explore Arashiyama bamboo forest
- Search for the snow monkeys
- See Kamakura's Grand Buddha
- Visit the Impressive Mt. Fuji

## TOUR MAP

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### EXPERIENCE JAPAN TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

## CLASSIC TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Experience Japan' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rests. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You'll be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Please Consider:

- Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces.
- Boarding and alighting from various boat sizes independently is part of the experience.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travelers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 12 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Osaka (arrive into either Itami Airport or Kansai Airport) and end the tour on Day 11 in Tokyo (departures from either Narita Airport or Haneda Airport). Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1-2: Arrive Osaka

Meals: D

Fly overnight to the lively, fast-paced city of Osaka. On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to start soaking up the local culture.

*Please note: Early check in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservations consultant.*

*You will be transferred by shared coach with other passengers who are not part of a Wendy Wu Tour. If you are on a shared bus transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to your hotel. Transfers will differ depending on group size.*



### Destination Information

**Osaka** – Osaka, formerly known as Naniwa, is Japan's third largest city and remains the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region. The city is famed for its delicious food and is often referred to as the culinary capital. The city also boasts vibrant colours that surround each street, rich history and culture.

### Day 3: Nara

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning in Osaka with a visit to the impressive Osaka Castle before cruising along the Yodogawa River. At Osaka castle park, you will reach to the castle for 15 minutes` walk from coach parking on flat road.

After lunch, transfer by coach to Japan's former imperial capital, Nara, a journey of approximately 1 hour. Visit Todaiji Temple, the world's largest wooden structure and home to Japan's largest Buddha.

Today, you will also visit Isui-en Gardens, known for its natural ponds – sightseeing here will be about 3 hours on foot before returning to Osaka.

*Please note: Due to limited space for coach parking, you may be required to walk up to 15 minutes from the coach to the entrance of Osaka Castle and for Nara Park.*



## Destination Information

**Osaka Castle** – Osaka Castle is one of Japan's most famous castles known for sweeping views of the city from its hilltop perch. Construction began in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who intended the castle to become the centre of a new, unified Japan under his rule.

**Yogodawa River** - the gentle Yogodawa river connects the cities of Osaka and Kyoto, a sail down the river offers visitors beautiful unobstructed views of the city.

**Nara** – Due to Nara's past as the first permanent capital, it remains full of historic treasures, including 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

**Todaiji Temple** – One of Nara's many UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Todaiji Temple is one the Seven Great Temples of Japan and is home to the world's largest bronze statue, Daibutsu. Isui-en Garden – Isui-en is an attractive Japanese garden divided into two parts, a front garden and a rear garden, with a number of tea houses scattered throughout. The front garden dates back to the mid-17th century, while the rear garden, the larger of the two, was built in 1899 by a wealthy merchant.

**Isui-en Garden** – Isui-en is an attractive Japanese garden divided into two parts, a front garden and a rear garden, with a number of tea houses scattered throughout. The front garden dates back to the mid-17th century, while the rear garden, the larger of the two, was built in 1899 by a wealthy merchant.

## Day 4: Osaka - Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Travel approximately 1 hour by road to Kyoto, Capital of Japan for 1,000 years, this enchanting city is the epitome of traditional Japan.

Upon arrival, visit Togetsukyo Bridge located in the heart of the vibrant district of Arashiyama and stroll through the bamboo forest with its towering and impressive thickets. Also visit Ryoanji Temple, home to Japan's most famous zen garden and the famous 'Golden Pavilion' Kinkakuji Temple.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon to further explore the city. You will need to remove your shoes at both temples. Sightseeing on foot will be approximately 2-3 hours on foot today.

*Please note: You will need to remove your shoes at both temples.*



### Destination Information

**Kyoto** – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto and in nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

**Togetsukyo Bridge** - The Togetsukyo Bridge spans the Katsura River at the foot of Arashiyama Mountain and offers guest wonderful views, particularly during spring and autumn.

**Arashiyama Bamboo Forest** - Arashiyama Bamboo Forest is an iconic area of scenic beauty, gaze up at the vast number of towering bamboo thickets.

**Ryoanji Temple** – Ryoanji Temple is a Zen temple renowned for its garden, which features a dry, sand landscape with large rocks and smooth pebbles.

**Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)** – Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

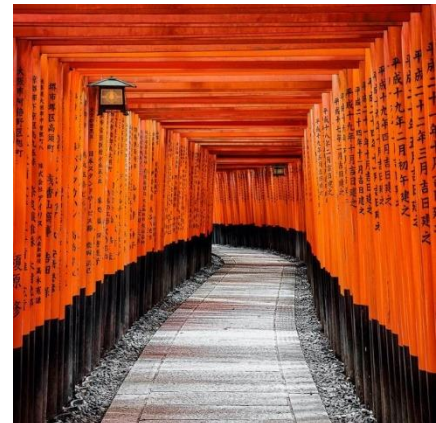
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### Day 5: Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Begin the day with a visit to one of Kyoto's most famous sites – Fushimi Inari Shrine, renowned for its 10,000 vermillion torii gates and follow a forested hillside pathway passing numerous shrines along the way.

Later, enjoy the age-old rituals of a tea ceremony with a tea master, and try your hand at origami. After lunch, your immersive experience continues with a fan painting class where you will learn the technique of this highly refined and sought-after visual art.



*Due to the nature of the cultural experience, you will be required to remove your shoes before entering the venue.*

*Please note: Due to the limited space for coach parking at Fushimi Inari Shrine, you may need to walk for around 15 minutes from the coach to reach the shrine.*

### Destination Information

**Fushimi Inari Shrine (Taisha)** – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermillion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

**Origami** - Origami, from "oru" meaning to fold and "kami" meaning paper, was first recorded in Japan in the Heian Period (794-1185) and as paper was still a rare commodity in this time period, origami was very much a pastime for the elite.

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**Day 6: Kyoto – Nagano - Matsumoto**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning travel deeper into the Japanese Alps, approximately 3.5 hours to Nagano. You will first travel by bullet train to Nagoya and then journey on the limited express train to Nagano.

Upon arrival, stop in Yudanaka in search for the snow monkeys (Japanese Macques) at Jigokudani Yaen-Koen Monkey Park. There is around a 30-minute walk through the forested valley along paths, occasionally on an incline, from the bus park to the main pool where the monkeys bathe. Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed up-close, and they almost completely ignore their human guests.



*Please keep in mind that the snow monkeys are wild, not domestic animals and sighting them is never guaranteed, particularly during the breeding season which runs from late September through to November.*

In Nagano, stop to visit the 7th-century Zenkoji Temple, before continuing by road to Matsumoto.

*Please note your luggage will be transferred to Matsumoto separately and will arrive on your second night, please ensure to pack an overnight bag for your first night in Matsumoto.*

### Destination Information

**Nagano** – The host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics, Nagano is the main access point for the Japanese Alps. Jigokudani Yaen-Koen – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

**Jigokudani Yaen-Koen** – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

**Zenkoji Temple** – Built in the 7th Century, Zenkoji stores what many believe to be the first Buddhist statue brought to Japan. Zenkoji's main hall has a tunnel in its basement where visitors try to find and touch the ‘key to paradise’ in complete darkness. The key is attached to the wall and grants enlightenment to anybody who touches it.



**Day 7: Matsumoto**

Meals: B, L, D

Begin the day with a visit to the magnificent 16th-century Matsumoto Castle, also known as 'Crow Castle', due to its intense black exterior.

You will have to remove your shoes before walking along some of the wooden floors and there are some steep wooden steps to reach certain areas.

Next, head to a miso house and learn about the process of making this famous Japanese seasoning. After lunch, visit a sake brewery and enjoy a tippie or two! There will be some free time this afternoon to further explore Matsumoto.



*Please note: From the coach parking to the castle, it is around 15 minutes' walk on flat road.*

**Destination Information**

**Matsumoto Castle** – Matsumoto Castle dates back to the 16th century and is the oldest wooden castle in Japan, it is a "hirajiro" meaning that the castle is built on plains rather than a hill or mountain.

**Miso** - Miso is a traditional Japanese seasoning, a fermented paste created from a mixture of soybeans, sea salt and rice koji. It is often used in soups, marinades and condiments.

**Day 8: Matsumoto – Mount Fuji - Mishima**

Meals: B, L, D

Travel by road to the Fuji Five Lakes area, the journey will take approximately 2 and a half hours.

The region is spectacular with the calm waters of the five lakes, formed by past volcanic eruptions, reflecting Fuji's picture-perfect cone.

Head up Fuji's 5th Station for spectacular mountain views.

*Please note: It is only possible to reach the 5th station if weather permits. If the 5th Station is closed, the Fujisan World Heritage Centre (formerly Fuji Visitor Centre) will be visited instead.*



Continue to tranquil Lake Ashi. Take a cruise across the lake before taking the Komagatake Ropeway cable car for spectacular views of Mount Fuji and the lake below. Transfer to Mishima where you will stay overnight and enjoy the public onsen facilities.

### Destination Information

**Fuji Five Lakes** – Formed by previous Mount Fuji eruptions, the Fuji Five Lakes is a region at the northern base of Mount Fuji made up of five beautiful lakes. It is one of the best places to view the famous Mt Fuji from a close distance.

**Mt Fuji** – At 3,776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains and an iconic symbol of the country. Mount Fuji is notoriously shy and is often enveloped by clouds.

**Lake Ashi** – Formed after Mount Hakone's last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.

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### Day 9:           Mishima - Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

With no less than 65 Buddhist temples and 19 Shinto shrines, begin the day with a 2 hour journey by road to Kamakura, a popular coastal city located south of Tokyo.

Visit Kotokuin Temple which houses Japan's second tallest bronze buddha statue followed by a stroll through Komachi Street which is lined with pretty little shops before visiting Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Kamakura's most important shrine.

After lunch, continue to Tokyo and enjoy a leisurely stroll through Hamarikyū Garden. You will be on your feet for approximately 2-3 hours today.



### Destination Information

**Kamakura** – A seaside city just south of Tokyo, Kamakura was the political centre of medieval Japan and is now a prominent resort town. The town is home to numerous Buddhist temples and Shinto shrine, best known for the remarkable Kotokuin Temple's Great Buddha.

**Kotokuin Temple** - Kotokuin Temple is famously home to the second tallest bronze statue of Buddha in Japan, surpassed only the Nara's Todaiji Temple. The statue was originally cast in 1252 and placed inside a large temple hall, however since the late 15th century the Buddha has been out in the open air.

**Tsurugaoka Hachimangu** - Tsurugaoka Hachimangu is Kamakura's most important shinto shrine and was founded in 1063 by Minamoto Yoriyoshi. The shrine is dedicated to Hachiman, the patron god of the Minamoto family and of the samurai in general.

**Tokyo** – Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon-lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

## Day 10: Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Tokyo is the ultimate metropolis, perfectly blending modern technology with beautifully serene backstreets and old temples.

Begin the day by ascending the soaring Tokyo Skytree, Japan's tallest tower for panoramic views of the city below. Next, head to the old district of Asakusa and soak up the atmosphere at Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most famous temple, home to a five-storey pagoda and the iconic large red Kaminarimon Thunder Gate lantern. Go on to browse the stalls throughout the Nakamise shopping street.



*Please note, due to limited space for coach parking, you may be required to walk an approximate 15 minutes on flat road.*

After lunch, take time to explore the Tokyo National Museum to learn about Tokyo's historical heritage. You will be on your feet for 4-5 hours during your touring in Tokyo.

Return to your hotel where your guide will let you know what time to meet for this evening's dinner cruise. Transfer from the hotel to your boat and take a leisurely 1-hour dinner cruise on Tokyo Bay for some excellent city vistas. You will need to get on and off your boat this evening without assistance.

### Destination Information

**Tokyo Skytree** – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake-resistant.

**Asakusa** – Asakusa is the centre of Tokyo's Shitamachi (Old Town) District, with its traditional craft shops and street food stalls here Asakusa retains the atmosphere of an older Tokyo.

**Sensoji Temple** – Sensoji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

**Tokyo National Museum** - Located in Ueno Park, the Tokyo National Museum is Japan's oldest museum. Here you'll find the world's largest collection of Japanese art, including ancient pottery, Buddhist sculptures, samurai swords, colourful woodblock prints, eloquent kimonos and much, much more.

**Day 11-12: Depart Tokyo**

Meals: B

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your overnight return flight home.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today.*

Late check-out is not included in our Experience Japan tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Tokyo, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



*Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.*

**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## EXPERIENCE JAPAN TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Japan for stays of up to 90 days.

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### EATING IN JAPAN:

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All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive classic group tours, from dinner on the group's arrival until breakfast the day of departure. On all Group tours, Extensions and Pre & Post Stays, no refund will be given for any meals missed due to your flight timings, or personal choice.

Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. It is based on combining staple foods, typically rice or noodles, with a soup and okazu — dishes made from fish, meat, or vegetables to add flavor to the staple food. These are typically flavored with dashi, miso, and soy sauce. Breakfast will mostly be buffet style but maybe a set menu. Your meal at lunch and dinner will likely be a pre-set option or bento box style including a combination of the following: rice and miso soup, noodles or fish and vegetables. It is also important to note that in local Japanese restaurants, it is customary for most meals to be served at room temperature and that it is sometimes customary to remove your shoes prior to entering a restaurant.

The schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Japan. Food is an important element of Japanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

It is imperative that you clearly communicate any and all dietary needs when booking, and don't forget to reaffirm them during your welcome briefing with your tour guide. However, it is crucial to understand that local restaurants might face limitations in accommodating specific dietary requests, particularly in the cases of gluten-free, celiac, or vegan requirements. Please bear in

mind that finding gluten-free options may not be as effortless as it is in Australia. Regrettably, we cannot assure that the food served will be entirely free from allergens.

For your convenience, generally, at the end of a long travelling day your meal will be at the hotel restaurant or nearby local restaurant. Tea and coffee facilities are not always available in all hotels so consider bringing your own supply of coffee and tea bags. Water is included with meals, but other drinks are at personal expense.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Japan. We recommend that when it comes to Japanese food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

### **GROUP SIZE:**

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Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

### **ACCOMMODATION:**

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Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. In the Fuji area, hotels tend to be more traditional in style and culture. In this area, you may be asked to take your shoes off at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is very traditional Japanese culture. Please note, double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Japan.

Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, contain one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Hotels in Japan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### PORTERAGE:

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Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in Japan. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

### TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart in Japan at various times during the day.

You will be met on arrival at the airport by an English-speaking assistant who will provide instructions for you to make your own way to your hotel using the direct airport bus. Please note the bus will be shared with other passengers and is not just for Wendy Wu Tours clients.

If your hotel is more than a 5-minute walk from the drop-off bus stop, a taxi will be arranged for you prior to leaving the airport to meet you at the drop-off bus stop.

When you check-in to your hotel, a welcome letter will be provided with details of the group's welcome dinner or first meeting point. You will meet your national escort at dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

On your departure day, you will be provided with tickets for your return airport bus, to make your own way to the airport.

### TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Japan are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and mini buses do not have onboard toilet facilities, however frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

**Bullet trains:** Second class reserved seats are booked for our groups on bullet trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you will need to prepare for this throughout your tour.

### DEVELOPMENT IN JAPAN:

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Japan is a developed country and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

### TIPPING POLICY:

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Although tipping in Japan is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

### CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

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Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Japan public holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded. Showa Day is on 29th April every year, which will start Golden Week which then runs from 29th April – 5th May, Constitution Memorial Day is on 3rd May, and Emperor's Birthday is on 23rd February every year.

### SOUVENIRS:

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

### LUGGAGE:

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.



### **PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

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Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. US Dollars and Australian Dollars can be exchanged at Narita Airport and in some hotels, provided the Australian currency is new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

### **CLIMBING STEPS:**

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### **VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### **AFTER YOUR BOOKING:**

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: April 2024