

TRAILS OF JAPAN

DAYS FROM

\$9,640

INCLUSIVE FROM
SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE,
ADELAIDE OR PERTH

MOST MEALS

PHYSICAL RATING

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Visit the Robot Restaurant
- ✓ Take a Taiko drumming class
- ✓ Hike around Mt Fuji's base
- ✓ Meet snow monkeys in the Alps
- ✓ Stay at a traditional ryokan
- ✓ Explore sacred Koyasan
- ✓ Chant with Buddhist monks
- ✓ Taste sake at a brewery



Stroll through the Meiji Inari Shrine

PRICE INCLUDES

- 11 breakfasts, no lunches & 4 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation in quality hotels
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Maximum group size of 18 passengers

PRICE GUIDE

- 14 days inclusive twin share from \$9,640 per person departing from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth
- For departures from other cities, please contact reservations for pricing and details
- Single supplement from \$1,650; ask about our 'Willing to Share' option
- Land only (Tokyo to Osaka): 12 days from \$8,540 per person

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE



NAKASENDO TRAIL 3 DAYS FROM \$1,055pp

Get off the beaten track and onto one of Japan's most spectacular walking trails instead. The Nakasendo Way is as easy and enjoyable to hike as it is magnificent.

See page 47.

Price based on twin share. Additional flight or rail costs may apply.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY AUSTRALIA TO TOKYO

Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

DAY 3: DISCOVER TOKYO

Tokyo is a city that is always moving forward – from the everchanging skyline to the fashions and trends of the people who call it home. As modern as it may appear, behind the neon façade is a traditional soul that is easy to find amongst the old alleyways, temples and shrines of the Edo era. Sightseeing today begins with a visit to the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree for views over the sprawling city below, followed by a visit to Sensoji Temple – Tokyo's oldest. Also, stroll along the lively Nakamise shopping street. Later, drive by the famous Shibuya Crossing, stop by Meiji Shrine and continue to the vibrant district of Harajuku. Finally, its time for a uniquely Tokyo experience – the Robot Restaurant, no introduction needed! (B)

DAY 4: JAPANESE DRUMMING

Immerse yourself into the local culture and spend the morning trying your hand at traditional Japanese drumming with a Taiko class, where you will learn how to beat the 'wadaiko' with 'bachi'. Next, head to Akihabara, Tokyo's electronics district and visit a Maid Café, one of Tokyo's most popular types of themed establishments. In the afternoon, explore the Edo-Tokyo Museum. Housed in the Ryogoku district of Tokyo, the Edo-Tokyo Museum powerfully illustrates the past of Tokyo (known as Edo until 1869) to relatively recent decades. (B)

DAY 5: MT FUJI

Journey out of Tokyo to the foot of mighty Mt Fuji. Pick up a hiking trail and make your way through alpine forest, across meadows and around lakes at Fuji's base, pausing often to gaze on the peak towering above you. (B,D)

DAY 6: SNOW MONKEYS

Travel to Matsumoto and explore its magnificent 16th Century castle. Continue to Nagano, stopping in Yudanaka to watch the Japanese Macaques, or snow monkeys, at Jigokudani Monkey Park bathe and play in and around the hot spring pool. (B)

DAY 7: JAPANESE ALPS

Travel to Hotaka and ride up into the Japanese Alps on the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway for breath taking views over the surrounding mountains (weather permitting). Drive to Takayama, nestled high in the Hida Region where you will stay the night at a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn with onsen facilities. Here you can bathe in the natural hot spring pools and experience this most traditional pastime. This afternoon you will have time to explore Kamisanomachi Street and sample the street food on offer. This evening, enjoy dinner in your ryokan. (B,D)

DAY 8: BULLET TRAIN TO KYOTO

Take the Limited Express train to Nagoya, then travel on the super-fast bullet train and whiz your way through the countryside to Kyoto. Start discovering the city's rich heritage with visits to the enchanting Fushimi Inari Shrine and Kiyomizu Temple. Stroll around Higashiyama and Gion, the geisha district, with a stop at Gion Corner, which showcases the seven professional performing arts. (B)



COACH RAIL



See the snow monkeys in the Japanese Alps

DAY 9: JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

Start today by visiting Kinkaku-ji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion' and Ryonaji Temple, home to Japan's most famous Zen garden. Continue to Arashiyama district and enjoy a rickshaw ride. Later, witness the rituals involved in the preparation and pouring of matcha tea in a traditional tea ceremony. (B)

DAY 10: KYOTO CULTURE & KOYASAN

Discover the complicated process of dressing in a traditional kimono at Nishijin Textile Centre, then try your hand at the art of origami. This afternoon, travel by road to Koyasan, where you will spend the night in a 13th-century temple sleeping on a traditional futon on a tatami mat floor. (B,D)

DAY 11: MORNING PRAYERS

Rise early to join the monks for their daily morning service – hearing the recitation and chanting is a magical experience. After breakfast, take a walking tour of Koyasan. One of Japan's holiest sites, this mountain top sanctuary is full of temples and pagodas. Also visit Kongobuji Temple and Okunoin Cemetery before travelling to Osaka. (B)

DAY 12: HIMEJI CASTLE & SAKE BREWERY

Take a day tour to Himeji to visit the 17th-century castle which is considered a prime example of Japanese feudal period architecture. Continue to a sake brewery, where you can learn about the brewing process and enjoy some tasters. Return to Osaka and enjoy a farewell dinner. (B,D)

DAYS 13-14: FLY OSAKA TO AUSTRALIA

Transfer to the airport and fly to Australia, arriving home the same or following day. (B)



SEE SHIBAZAKURA FESTIVAL

During the month of May, a special visit to the Fuji Shibazakura Festival has been included on Day 5. This is the best time of the year and one of the most scenic places in Japan to see the pink moss phlox in full bloom!

Contact us for more information.



SEE SUMO WRESTLING

On our May and September departures, there is an extra special addition to Day 4: the Sumo Tournament. Many of Japan's most ancient traditions are preserved in the sport, and the rituals involved in its performance are as fascinating to watch as the wrestling itself.

Contact us for more information.

TRAILS OF JAPAN

IMMERSE YOURSELF

GO BEYOND

YOU'LL LOVE THIS TOUR BECAUSE:

It's a chance to get off the beaten track on our most active and culturally immersive tour of Japan. See the snow monkeys, trek at the foot of Mt Fuji and stay in both a traditional ryokan and a Buddhist monastery.



Try Taiko drumming in Tokyo

PRICES & DEPARTURES

2019 DATES

22 Mar - 04 Apr	\$10,280	07 Sep - 20 Sep*	\$9,640
28 Mar - 10 Apr	\$10,280	14 Sep - 27 Sep*	\$9,640
06 Apr - 19 Apr	\$10,280	05 Oct - 18 Oct*	\$10,280
14 May - 27 May*	\$9,640	22 Oct - 04 Nov*	\$10,280
20 May - 02 Jun*	\$9,640		

2020 DATES

22 Mar - 04 Apr	\$10,680	11 May - 24 May*	\$10,040
28 Mar - 10 Apr	\$10,680	18 May - 31 May*	\$10,040
06 Apr - 19 Apr	\$10,680		

* Includes the sumo wrestling tournament

Important note

Above price includes airline fuel surcharge and taxes. Correct as of 12 September 2018 and subject to change. Depending on airline schedules, you may depart and/or arrive on Day 2, or may require extra nights pre or post tour accommodation or stopovers at additional cost.



Taste Japanese sake brewed near Himeji