



Japan Arts Revealed

This is the perfect itinerary for art lovers. From the contemporary art scene of Tokyo to the traditional arts and *mingei* (folk craft) of Kyoto, this lovely trip will immerse you in the best of Japan's vibrant and creative culture. Start off in Tokyo, taking in numerous museums and galleries – from the historic exhibits of the Tokyo National Museum spanning thousands of years of Asian culture to the beautiful and contemplative animation of the Studio Ghibli museum. For architecture fans, Tokyo affords stunning architectural jewels where ancient wooden temples collide with soaring skyscrapers. Move on to Kyoto – the cultural heartland of Japan and home to many of Japan's ancient arts such as the tea ceremony, scroll painting, flower arranging and kimono making. Kyoto is also a centre for performing arts with Kabuki and Noh theatre, traditional Geisha entertainment and a lively modern music scene. Go on to visit Kurashiki and its lovely Bikanchiku canal district, lined with picturesque feudal era storehouses now selling local wares. Your next stop is the scenic Naoshima Art Island where the highlight is the Benesse House Museum complex, renowned for its indoor and outdoor art installations and museums. Your final destination is Fukuoka located on the southern island of Kyushu where you will discover Japan's ceramic tradition, inherited from Chinese and Korean influences.

Tokyo

Home to over 12 million people, the vast metropolis of Japan's capital must be seen to be believed. Tokyo embraces the modern and ancient like no other city on earth and offers something for everyone who wants to delve into the Japanese phenomenon: the towering skyscrapers and frenzied neon of Shinjuku, the pop culture and gadget paradise of Akihabara, the sophisticated chic of Ginza, the biggest and liveliest fish market in the world, the old downtown area of Asakusa, and the tranquil, understated beauty of Meiji Shrine. Not to mention superb restaurants and great bars as well as fabulous shopping and museums befitting the capital of the world's second-largest economy.



Kyoto



Kyoto is where you will find the Japan of silent temples nestling in bamboo groves, gardens of finely raked sand and bewitching geisha. This city is home to over 2,000 temples and shrines, exquisite crafts and some of the best cuisine in the country. In short, Kyoto is the heartbeat of traditional Japan.

Not to be missed are Kinkaku-ji, Ginkaku-ji and Kiyomizu temples, although be aware that these do become crowded. For a more peaceful, intimate temple experience we recommend the temple complex of Daitoku-ji, in particular Daisen- in sub-temple, and the Arashiyama area to the west of the city.

Kurashiki

In the Edo period Kurashiki was an important trading town for rice and later became known for textiles. Having largely escaped war time damage, much of Kurashiki's old storehouses, mills and shops remain in good condition. With arching bridges and weeping willows flanking the feudal era canal, Kurashiki will give you a sense of where people lived and worked in old Japan. The nearby town of Okayama is home to Korakuen, a traditional stroll garden considered one of Japan's three most beautiful gardens.



Naoshima

Naoshima is an island located in the Seto Inland Sea and is best known for the Benesse House museum – hotel complex. The island is a little hilly but pleasant enough along the coasts for biking and walking, except for the road from Miyanoura to Chichu Art Museum. It is entirely feasible for all sights on this island to be seen in one day but take a note from the locals and enjoy the island at your own pace.

Fukuoka

Fukuoka, the capital of Fukuoka Prefecture, sits on the northern shore of Japan's Kyushu Island. It's known for its ancient temples, beaches and modern shopping malls, including Canal City. Its expansive Fukuoka Art Museum lies within tranquil Ohori Park, and neighbouring Maizuru Park contains ruins of the 17th-century Fukuoka Castle. Fukuoka is the birthplace of Tonkotsu ramen which has recently gained great popularity in the West – enjoy it in the way it was first conceived at one of Fukuoka's riverside street food 'yatai' stalls.





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The Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Japan

Welcome to Japan! Our friendly Meet & Greet service representative will be waiting in the Arrivals lobby and holding a sign with your name on. The Meet & Greet will direct you to the Narita Express train or Airport Limousine Bus bound for Tokyo. Check in to your hotel located in central Tokyo for 3 nights.

Day 2: Tokyo

Your options are unlimited in this incredible city. Explore Tokyo's past in the bustling, traditional Asakusa district, visit the world's largest fish market at Tsukiji, shop in the fashionable districts of Shibuya and Harajuku and dine on Japan's finest cuisine. Tokyo is relatively straightforward to navigate, and our Information Pack will make travelling around the city a breeze.

Optional guided excursion

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing by coach in Tokyo, with lunch included. Your Guide will show you the highlights of this vast metropolis, from the Imperial Palace and serene Meiji Shrine to the 'Electric City' of Akihabara.

Day 3: Tokyo

After breakfast, why not visit Mori Art Museum in the heart of Tokyo's contemporary art scene in Roppongi. Later we suggest you make your way to Ueno Park to visit SCAI The Bathhouse, one of the city's most prestigious contemporary art galleries, and possibly

the best art space in the city. Go on to visit Tadao Ando's International Library of Children's Literature and Yoshio Taniguchi's Gallery of Horyuji Treasures in the Tokyo National Museum complex.

Day 4: Tokyo to Kyoto

(Start using your 7 Day Japan Rail Pass today.)

Transfer to Kyoto by the Superb Bullet train, a city blessed with countless temples and shrines. Check in to your hotel in central Kyoto for 3 nights on a bed & breakfast basis. A rich history of religion, art and craft have combined to make this glorious city a spiritual home for the Japanese. For temples we recommend Kiyomizu-dera and Ginkaku-ji in the hills to the east of the city. Nijo Castle is also well worth a visit, and make sure you allow yourself plenty of time for the wonderful craft shops and delightful streets of Gion, the old geisha quarter.

Day 5: Kyoto

You'll start today with a visit to Nishiki Food Market. Then visit the Raku Museum, showing 450 years of tradition in pottery. Move on to Sanjusangen-do Temple and its extraordinary collection of 1000 human sized gilded statues of the Buddhist deity Kannon. Walk a short distance to the shrine-like house of great folk art revivalist potter Kawai Kanjiro. If the time allows, go on to the Fujihira Ceramic studio where you can see the process of making Kiyomizu pottery.

Optional guided excursion

Join a guided coach tour. As well as Nijo Castle and Kinkaku-ji (The Golden Temple), see Sanjusangendo, and the world famous Kiyomizu Temple. Today's tour includes a delicious buffet-style lunch.

Day 6: Kyoto/Nara/Himeji/Osaka at leisure

Spend another day exploring Kyoto or use your Japan Rail Pass to explore further afield. Why not visit Nara, Japan's first permanent capital and home to 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites? Or how about magnificent Himeji Castle? You could even check out nearby Osaka, Japan's lively second city.

Day 7: Kurashiki, Okayama

Transfer to the quaint provincial town of Kurashiki, where rows of houses and streets form a townscape with a traditional old world atmosphere in the delightful Bikanchiku canal district. We recommend you visit the Ohara Museum, the first Western art museum in Japan and its collection of works by Western and Japanese artists. Nearby Kurashiki Mingeikan – a museum of folk craft is also worth a visit. Take the local train journey to Okayama and check in to your hotel located in central Okayama for two nights.

Day 8: Naoshima

Spend today on wonderful Naoshima Island. The island is the centre of the Setouchi Art Islands area, where sleepy villages and picturesque sandy beaches combine with cutting edge art installations and museums in a truly



unique way, making for a fascinating experience. The highlight of the island is Benesse House, a modern art museum and resort hotel complex designed by the famous Japanese architect Ando Tadao. You can find the work of Western and Japanese artists throughout the island, which is small enough to explore in a day.

Day 9: Fukuoka

This morning take the Bullet train once more to Fukuoka, located in the southern island of Kyushu. On arrival, visit Ohori Park, home to the Fukuoka Art Museum, where you can see a range of early Japanese and Asian art. A short bus ride away is Fukuoka Tower, the city's most striking landmark from which you can see spectacular views of the city. This evening try some of the famous Hakata tonkotsu style ramen at one of the city's famous street vendors in the party district of Nakasu.

Day 10: Arita

Spend your last day visiting Arita in nearby Saga prefecture - famous for Arita-ware. The first Japanese porcelain was produced in Saga, and there is an abundance of local styles. A good first stop is the superb Kyushu Ceramic Museum in Arita where you can view the numerous different styles of porcelainware and some wonderful contemporary pieces. Later head into the mountains and visit the delightful secret hidden, pottery village Okawachi-jima, one of the first homes

Optional Guided Excursions:

Tokyo: £101.00 per person *full day, including lunch* **Kyoto:** £109.00 per person *full day, including lunch*

All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange and are subject to availability. To make a booking, a deposit of **£200.00 per person** is required. The balance of the price of the trip must be made 12 weeks prior to departure.

Price Includes:

- 10 nights' accommodation in a Twin/Double room at 3* hotels on a bed & breakfast basis
- Transfer from Narita International Airport to Tokyo
- 7 day Ordinary Japan Rail Pass allowing you unlimited travel on the entire Japan Rail network, including Shinkansen (Bullet Train) services
- Meet & Greet service on arrival at Narita/Haneda International Airport (Tokyo)
- Detailed Japan Journeys Information Pack including detailed train schedules, maps, & brochures
- Personalised Japan Journeys App to help manage your documents
- All Japanese sales taxes and service charge
- Full financial protection via Japan Journeys' membership of the Travel Trust Association through which your monies are held in a Trust Account until you return home (under Membership No. U3078)

Not Included In Price:

- International airfare
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to sights not mentioned in the itinerary
- Taxi, subway and tramway fees
- Insurance
- Optional excursions and experiences (see below)

3* ACCOMMODATION

from £1,495.00

per person based on
Twin/Double room
occupancy.

from £200.00

Single Supplement
**Optional Kyoto
Experiences:**

Rolled Sushi cooking
Tempura & Rolled Sushi
Kimono wearing
Tea Ceremony
Calligraphy

4* ACCOMMODATION

from £1,795.00

per person based on
Twin/Double room
occupancy.

from £400.00

Single Supplement
**At a Culture
Centre**

£65.00
-
£65.00
£65.00

5* ACCOMMODATION

On Request

**At a Japanese
Home**

-
£150.00
£145.00
£145.00

HOW OUR INDEPENDENT TOURS WORK

Enjoy independent travel but not the hassle of planning? One of our Independent Tours could be just the ticket. Carefully put together by our team of specialists, our excellent collection of sample itineraries are designed to inform and inspire your next Japan adventure. Every one of our Independent Tours is fully tailor made for you, ensuring your trip is everything you want it to be.

It's quite straight forward to travel independently in Japan. We will provide just the right amount of support and logistical planning to make you feel comfortable in a very foreign land. These itineraries are available for any departure date (with a few exclusions which coinciding with Japanese National Holidays and some weekends). We'll do all the work for you and provide you with an information pack to make your trip run smoothly. You can also add guided tours as indicated and if you do want your own personal guide we can arrange this too.

WHAT NEXT?

If you're interested in this itinerary, please let us know the following and we will get back to you with a quote:

- Your proposed dates of travel
- Your preferred grade of accommodation (e.g. 3*, 4*, or 5*)
- Your preferred room type (e.g. Double, Twin or Singles)
- How many adults and children this is for (and the age of the children at the time of travel)

NOT FROM THE UK?

Don't worry! We deal with countless passengers from outside of the UK. You just need to let us know the information above (and you can arrange your own flights to Japan).

To find out more, call one of our specialists now on **020 7766 5267**.



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