

# Japan - Shogun & Samurai

Explore historic attractions, cultural heritage, social intricacies, and natural wonders in Tokyo, Mt. Fuji/Hakone, Kanazawa, Kaga, Kyoto, and Nara

12 Days / 10 Nights

well tested itinerary and ready-to-go for any group size - pick your own dates



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## Tour Program Summary

While retaining its time-honored culture, **Japan** rapidly absorbed Western technology during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The harmonious contrast of tradition and modernity is apparent all across this island nation. Spring and Fall are the best time to visit Japan to see the rich colors in the leaves of the trees of its abundant forests. Immerse yourself in the colors, flavors and aromas of this exotic destination.

Your grand Japan tour starts in **Tokyo**, the Capital of Japan and the world's largest metropolitan area with 36 million people. The city's history can be appreciated in districts such as Asakusa, and in many excellent museums, historic temples and gardens. Tokyo also offers a seemingly unlimited choice of good shopping, entertainment, culture and dining opportunities to its visitors.

Next visit **Mt. Fuji** and **Hakone**, part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, less than 100 (62 miles) kilometers from Tokyo. Famous for hot springs, natural beauty and a stunning view of the iconic Mt. Fuji, Hakone is one of the most popular destinations among tourists looking for a break from Japan's urban areas. Also explore historic treasures in the coastal town of **Kamakura**, home of the famous Shogunate.

A high speed train ride will take you to **Kanazawa**, an important city in its region and serves as the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture. The city boasts many historical attractions such as well preserved or restored samurai residences and districts, the charming Maeda family Kanazawa Castle, as well as modern museums. But Kanazawa's unchallenged main attraction is Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's "three best landscape gardens" and by many considered the most beautiful of them all.

**Kaga Onsen** is a collection of four hot spring towns south of Kanazawa, not far from Mount Hakusan, one of Japan's "three holiest mountains" (alongside Mount Fuji and Mount Tateyama). The hot springs were discovered over 1300 years ago by monks visiting Hakusan, and have been popular, highly rated onsen destination ever since.

Another express train ride will bring you to **Kyoto**, where over 1000 years of history and Buddhist culture live on today. Kyoto flourished as the capital of Japan for several centuries after 794. Spared from bombing during World War 2, Kyoto is one of the few cities in Japan to maintain its ancient architecture. Thirteen temples, three shrines and Nijo Castle are all registered as World Heritage Sites. Enjoy a day trip to **Nara**, located less than one hour from Kyoto and Osaka. Due to its past as the first permanent capital of Japan, it remains full of historic treasures, including some of Japan's oldest temples.

Fly home or to your next destination from Osaka International Airport.

# Tour Daily Itinerary

- Day 01   ➔ depart   Fly from North America to Tokyo, Japan on your own cross-Pacific flight
- Day 02   **Tokyo**   Arrive in Tokyo at Narita or Haneda International Airport today; met by our staff and transfer to your hotel in Tokyo by airport-hotel shuttle bus; check in [Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo \(south wing superior room\)](#) located in the city center. Remainder of the day is free for your own relaxation.
- Day 03   **Tokyo**   Breakfast in hotel; met by English-speaking guide at your hotel at **9:00am** and begin your guided Tokyo Full-Day Sightseeing with Tokyo 1-day tour ticket (Tokyo 1-day pass by public transportation). Your guide will take you to visit these sites and attractions in the city:
- Tokyo Tower, standing 333 meters high in the center of Tokyo, is the world's tallest, self-supporting steel tower, 13 meters taller than its model, the Eiffel Tower. A symbol of Japan's post-war rebirth as a major economic power, Tokyo Tower was completed in 1958.
- Imperial Palace Plaza, the current Imperial Palace is located on the former site of Edo Castle, a large park area surrounded by moats and massive stone walls in the center of Tokyo, a short walk from Tokyo Station.
- Harajuku & Omotesando, the center of Japan's most extreme teenage cultures and fashion styles, but also offers shopping for adults and some historic sites and remains.
- Shibuya Crossing, a prominent landmark of Shibuya is the large intersection in front of the station's Hachiko Exit. The intersection is heavily decorated by neon advertisements and giant video screens and gets flooded by pedestrians, making it a popular photo and movie filming spot.
- Tour ends at hotel around **5:00pm**; lunch and dinner are on your own today and evening is free. <B>



- Day 04   **Tokyo ➔ Hakone & Mt. Fuji**   Breakfast at hotel; met by your guide at the hotel at **9:00am** and transfer to train station for a *Shinkansen* ride to Hakone for an overnight excursion. (*big luggage stored in hotel*) Upon arrival, go to Mt. Fuji by private vehicle for a half day tour. You will visit the following sites and attractions:
- Mt. Fuji 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> stations (UNESCO - At 2300m (7500 ft.) above sea level, the 5<sup>th</sup> Station offers a commanding view of the Fuji Five Lakes area below, making it a popular spot.
- Hakone Sky Gondola or Ropeway on Mt. Komagatake (depends on condition), the ropeway can take us to the top of Mt. Komagatake in only 7 minutes. The ropeway's lakeside station is at Hakone-en.

Owakudani Boiling Valley or Hakone Check Point (depends on condition), much of the area is an active volcanic zone where sulfurous fumes, hot springs and hot rivers can be experienced. A short walking trail leads from the ropeway station into the volcanic zone to a number of steam vents and bubbling pools.

Boat Cruise on Lake Ashi. The lake with Mt. Fuji in the background is the symbol of Hakone. The best views of the lake in combination with Mt. Fuji can be enjoyed from the sightseeing boats cruising the lake.

Transfer to [Tensei En Ryokan Hakone \(regular Japanese room\)](#) and evening is free for your own relaxation. Dinner in ryokan restaurant. <B-D>



Day 05 **Hakone** 🚗  
**Kamakura**  
🚗 **Tokyo**

Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby at 9:30am and drive to Kamakura by private vehicle for an exploration. You will visit these sites:

Upon arrival, First visit Hasedera Temple, the 9.18 meter tall, gilded wooden statue is regarded as one of the largest wooden sculpture in Japan, and can be viewed in the temple's main building, the Kannon-do Hall (*hall of the goddess of mercy*).

Great Buddha, a bronze statue of Amida Buddha, which stands on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. With a height of 13.35 meters, it is the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara's Todaiji Temple.

Komachi Street, the street is lined with over 250 restaurants, boutiques, fancy cafes, Japanese-style sweet cafes, and stores selling souvenirs and sundry articles unique to the ancient city.

Tsurugaoka Shrine is Kamakura's most important shrine. It was founded by Minamoto Yoriyoshi in 1063, and enlarged and moved to its current site in 1180 by Minamoto Yoritomo, the founder and first shogun of the Kamakura government.

Late afternoon, drive back to your Tokyo hotel [Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo Shinjuku \(standard room\)](#) for your own relaxation. <B>



Day 06 **Tokyo** 🚗  
**Kanazawa**

Early breakfast in hotel. This morning you will first visit Tokyo Tsukiji Outer Fish market with your guide. Later, enjoy free to exploration in the center of Tokyo since your hotel is located right in the Shinjuku area.

Check out hotel at noon and met by your English-speaking guide in

hotel lobby and transfer to the train station for a high speed bullet ride to Kanazawa. Upon arrival, met by your local guide and transfer to [Hotel Nikko Kanazawa \(standard room\)](#). Evening is free for relaxation. <B>

Day 07 **Kanazawa**

Breakfast in hotel; met by English-speaking guide at the hotel lobby and enjoy a privately guided tour in Kanazawa by public transportation. You will visit these important and fascinating attractions and sites today:

First visit the [Kanazawa Castle Park](#), from 1583 to the end of the Edo Period, Kanazawa Castle the seat of the powerful Maeda Clan, lords of Kaga, a feudal domain ranking second only to the Tokugawa possessions in terms of size and wealth.

[Kenrokuen Garden](#), justifiably classified as one of Japan's "three most beautiful landscape gardens" alongside with Mito's Kairakuen and Okayama's Korakuen. Kenrokuen features a variety of flowering trees which provide the garden with a different look for each season.

[Higashichaya Teahouse District](#), a well preserved chaya district. Here, you will visit a local gold leaf store with manufacturing and hands-on gift workshops for visitor. You will be able to make your own gold leaf souvenir under the coaching of an senior craftsman.

[Nagamachi Samurai District](#), located at the foot of the former Kanazawa Castle, where samurai and their families used to reside. The area preserves a historic atmosphere with its remaining samurai residences, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow lanes and water canals. Step into the [Nomura Residence](#), one of the main attractions of Samurai district.

Lastly, visit [The D. T. Suzuki Museum](#), a small museum of modern design commemorating the life and works of Suzuki Daisetz Teitaro (1870-1966), a prominent Buddhist philosopher.

Transfer back to the hotel and dinner is on your own. <B>



Day 08 **Kanazawa**  
 **Kaga**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide in your hotel lobby and transfer to Kaga by vehicle. Upon arrival, you visit the following sites today:

[Traditional Handicrafts Village \(Yunokuni-no-mori\)](#), offers guests the chance to watch craft-making by local residents, make their own crafts, and make or eat fantastic food.

[Kaga Yuzen Workshop](#), the Kaga printed silk is on a par with Japan's most famous yuzen from Kyoto. This workshop allows you to experience stencil silk dyeing. Enjoy **lunch** at a local restaurant.

[Kutaniyaki Pottery Exhibition Hall](#), displays a variety of antique and modern kutaniyaki pieces as well as the ruins of a multi-leveled kiln from the Edo Period. Hands-on workshops are offered as well.

Late afternoon, transfer to the Japanese style hotel [Hana Murasaki](#)

[Ryokan \(Japanese style room\)](#) for check in. Have some leisure time before **dinner** in the ryokan restaurant. <B-L-D>

Day 09 **Kaga** 🇯🇵  
**Kyoto**

Breakfast in the ryokan; met by guide in your hotel lobby and enjoy a privately guided tour in Kaga. The highlight is to join a [Soba Making Workshop](#) to make some soba noodles, and then have **lunch** at Rokuro-no-sato Yamaboshi with your own made noodles.

Transfer to Kaga Onsen Station by vehicle and then take a high speed train to Kyoto. Upon arrival, met by your private local guide and walk straight to your Kyoto hotel located next to the train station. Check in and stay at [Hotel Granvia Kyoto \(standard room\)](#). Evening is free. <B-L>



Day 10 **Kyoto**

Breakfast in hotel; met by guide in your hotel lobby and enjoy a privately guided tour in Kyoto. You can visit these fascinating sites today:

[Kiyomizu Temple \(UNESCO\)](#), best known for its wooden stage that juts out from its main hall, 13 meters above the hillside below. The stage affords visitors a nice view of the numerous cherry and maple trees below that erupt in a sea of color in spring and fall, as well as of the city of Kyoto in the distance.

[Sanjusangendo](#) - this shrine is famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The temple's main hall is with 120 meters Japan's longest wooden structure.

[Golden Pavilion or Kinkakuji-Ji \(UNESCO\)](#), an impressive and beautiful structure built overlooking a large pond, and top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. It has become the iconic image for Kyoto.

[Ryoanji Temple \(UNESCO\)](#), the site of Japan's most famous rock garden. The garden consists of a rectangular plot of pebbles surrounded by low earthen walls, with 15 rocks laid out in small groups on patches of moss. Wonderful place to sit down and do a little bit of meditation.

[Arashiyama \(bamboo forest\)](#), the walking paths that cut through the bamboo groves make for a pleasant stroll or a bicycle ride. The groves are particularly attractive when there is a light wind and the tall bamboo stalks sway gently back and forth.

Tonight, enjoy a [Japanese Cultural Show](#) in Gion District followed by a **Japanese Cuisine Dinner** in that area. Transfer back to hotel. <B-D>

Day 11 **Kyoto** 🇯🇵  
**Nara**

Breakfast in hotel; met by your English-speaking guide in hotel lobby and commence Fushimi & Nara day tour by public transportation. Today's sightseeing includes the following site and attractions:

[Fushimi Inari Shrine](#), famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates, which straddle a network of trails behind its main buildings. The trails

lead into the wooded forest of the sacred Mount Inari, which stands at 233 meters and belongs to the shrine grounds. Also enjoy a Fushimi Sake Tasting Session to learn about the process of sake making and drinking traditions.

Nara Park (Deer Park), the park is home to hundreds of freely roaming deer. Considered in Shinto to be messengers of the gods, Nara's nearly 1200 deer have become a symbol of the city and have even been designated as a natural treasure.

Todaiji Temple (UNESCO), Todaiji's main hall, the Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall) is the world's largest wooden building, despite the fact that the present reconstruction of the 1692 structure is only two thirds of the original temple hall's size.

Transfer back to Kyoto and tour ends at your hotel at; lunch and dinner are on your own. Enjoy your last night in Japan. <B>

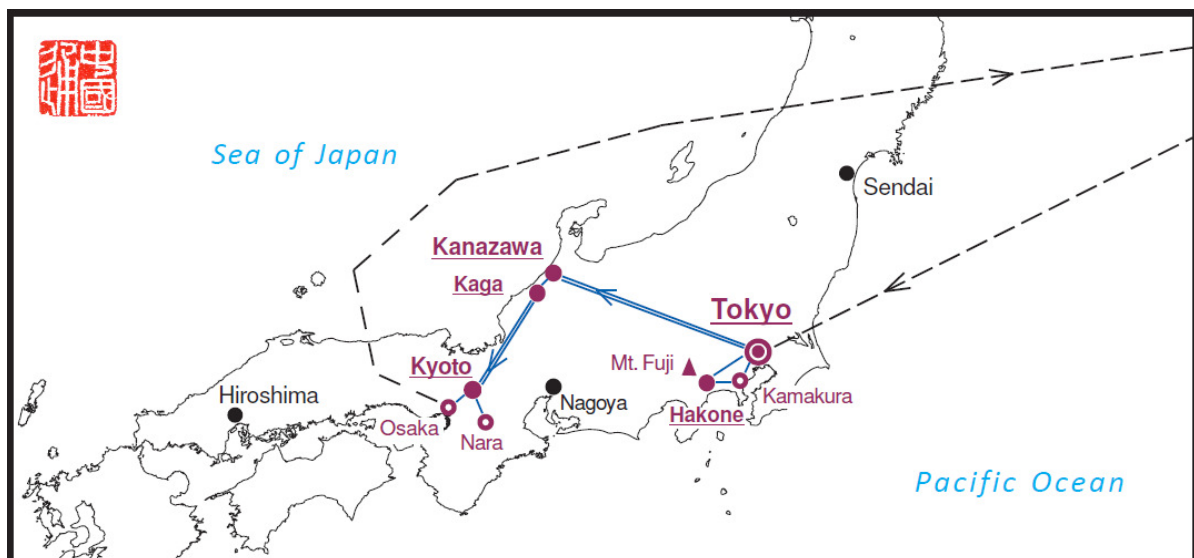


Day 12 → return

Breakfast in hotel; met by your driver in hotel lobby and transfer to Kansai Airport by private vehicle for your homebound flight to North America or a flight to your next destination in Asia. Service ends. <B>

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**Changes to Itinerary:** Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.



## Deluxe or First Class Hotels/ Ryokan Selected for This Tour



Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo



Tensei En Ryokan Hakone



Hotel Nikko Kanazawa



Hana Murasaki Ryokan Kaga



Hotel Granvia Kyoto

## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

- Tour Land Price:** from **\$5,898 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 2-4 travelers*)  
from **\$5,395 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 5-7 travelers*)  
from **\$4,890 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 8-9 travelers*)
- Single Supplement:** from **\$1,380 USD** for single occupancy throughout the tour

We will quote the exact price for your tour depending on the season and availability once you have chosen your tour dates

Tour Payment Schedule: **\$600 USD per person** deposit is required at sign up. Tour Balance is due **90 days** prior to tour date.

### **What's Included in Tour Land Price:**

- Arrival and departure transfers (*private or public vehicle*)
- Deluxe and first class hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- Tourist class Japanese domestic high speed train and ground transportation while on tour
- All tour related Japanese domestic taxes
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All entrance fees for the listed sightseeing activities in the itinerary
- All meals as listed in the tour itinerary (**All breakfast, 2 lunch, 3 dinners**)
- Service of a private professional English-speaking local tour guide in each city
- Private and clean vehicles with air-conditioning and professional driver where arranged

### **What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- International air tickets (*please call us for a quote if you need assistance*)
- Most lunches and dinners
- Any optional activities and sightseeing
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Other items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by your travel agency or *Access China Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure *	\$300 per person
89 to 60 days prior to departure *	\$600 per person
59 to 30 days prior to departure *	\$900 per person
29 to 15 days prior to departure *	\$1200 per person

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Your travel agency and *Access China Tours* will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** Your travel agency and *Access China Tours* reserves the right to cancel any tour(s) that has only one traveler signed up. In this case, we will try to find an alternative tour for tour participant. If this is not acceptable, all money paid will be refunded in full and this will constitute full and final settlement for the client. However, your travel agency and *Access China Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.). If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, your travel agency and *Access China Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)