

Highlights of Japan

Explore the historic monuments, cultural heritage, social intricacies, and natural wonders in
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Hakone, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka

12 Days / 10 Nights (October 25 - November 05, 2017)

Specially Designed for a Small Group of Up to 20 Active Travelers



ACCESS CHINA TOURS



Group and Private Fine Touring in China and Asia

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. Fall is 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 largest city of the country. 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 shopping, entertainment, culture and dining to its visitors.

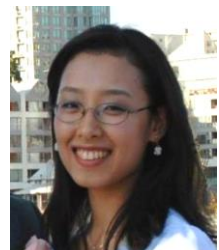
Next visit **Mt. Fuji** and **Hakone**, part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, less than 100 (62 miles) kilometers from Tokyo. Famous for hot springs, natural beauty and a stunning view of the iconic Mt. Fuji, Hakone is one of the most popular destinations among tourists looking for a break from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



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 and 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.

Travel by vehicle to this tour's last city, **Osaka**. With a population of 2.5 million, Osaka is Japan's third largest and second most important city. It has been the economic powerhouse of the Kansai region for many centuries. End of tour services and return home from Osaka.

Tour Leader & Escort: **Ms. Napito Asahara** was born in China but grew up in Japan until she went to California for her university education. Ms. Asahara graduated from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies. She has traveled extensively in Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe and North America, and worked in both private and public educational institutions. Ms. Asahara has a passion for travel and is very enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge on Japanese culture and tradition with travelers. She is currently working as travel consultant and group tour leader at Access China Tours' Vancouver Office.



Tour Daily Itinerary

- Day 01 ➔ Depart Fly from North America to Tokyo, Japan on your cross-Pacific flight.
Oct 25
- Day 02 Tokyo Arrive in Tokyo at Narita or Haneda International Airport today; met by our airport assistant and transfer to [Hotel New Otani, Garden Tower \(standard TWIN room\)](#) in Tokyo by **airport limousine bus** (no assistant on the bus) check in.
Oct 26 **Dinner is on your own tonight** after an ACT Briefing/Reception by your tour guide in the hotel lounge.
- Day 03 Tokyo Breakfast in the hotel; met by your English-speaking guide in the hotel lobby at **9AM** and begin a Tokyo full day tour. You will visit these important and fascinating sites (3-4 sites depends on the traffic):
Oct 27 Asakusa Temple & Nakamise Shopping Street, one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular Buddhist temples located in Asakusa and the nearby Nakamise shopping street. Here, you will find typical Japanese souvenirs such as 'yukata' and folding fans as well as various traditional local snacks.
Sky Tree (main observatory), a new television-broadcasting tower and landmark of Tokyo. It is the tallest building in Japan and the second tallest structure in the world at the time of its completion.
Harajuku & Omotesando, the center of Japan's most recent cultural trends, newest gadgets and fashion styles, but also offers shopping for adults and some historic sites as well.
Shibuya Crossing, a prominent landmark of Shibuya, which is the large intersection in front of the station's Hachiko Exit.
Tour ends at your hotel at **5PM**; **lunch and dinner are on your own** (guide can suggest); **enjoy a free evening tonight.**



- Day 04 Tokyo Breakfast in the hotel; **enjoy a free day on your own today.**
Oct 28 Suggested sites you can visit on your own; **Giburi Museum, Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo Disney Resorts, Tokyo Tower, Akihabara Otaku District, Sumida River Cruise, Imperial Palace Plaza, Tsukiji or Toyosu Fish Market, Meiji Shrine etc.**
- Day 05 Tokyo 🚌 Breakfast in the hotel; met by your guide in the hotel lobby at **8:30AM** and go to Mt. Fuji & Hakone for a full day tour by **private coach**. You will visit these must-see sites and attractions:
Oct 29 **Mt. Fuji & Hakone** Mt. Fuji 2 – 5th stations (UNESCO), the best developed and easiest to access by public transportation from Tokyo. At 2300m (7500 ft.) above sea level, the 5th Station offers a commanding view of the Fuji Five Lakes area

below, making it a popular spot even for those who are not intent on climbing the mountain.

Hakone Sky Gondola or Ropeway on Mt. Komagatake (depends on conditions), 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 conditions), 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.

Tour ends at a Yumoto Fujiya Hotel (Japanese – Western room with TWIN beds) around 6:30PM; lunch is on your own and enjoy a traditional Japanese style dinner in the ryokan tonight. <B-D>

*The full day Hakone & Mt. Fuji is subject to change due to the weather and will visit Kamakura instead if it's cloudy and/ or raining on this day.



Day 06 **Hakone**
Oct 30

Breakfast in the ryokan; enjoy a free day on your own; enjoy a traditional Japanese style dinner in the ryokan tonight. <B-D>

Suggested sites you can visit on your own; Hakone Open-Air Museum, Hakone Shrine, Pola Museum, Hakone Mountain Railway etc.

Day 07 **Hakone**
Oct 31  **Kyoto**

Breakfast in the ryokan (due to a limited space on bullet trains, your main suitcases will be transferred to the hotel in Kyoto separately, bring smaller bags with you); met by your English-speaking guide or assistant at the lobby and transfer to Odawara Station for a bullet train to Kyoto.

Met by your local guide upon arrival at the platform and transfer to Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto (Executive Floor TWIN room) for check-in and the rest of the day is free.

Day 08 **Kyoto**
Nov 01

Breakfast in the hotel; met by your local English-speaking guide in the hotel lobby at 9AM and commence a Kyoto half day tour:

Golden Pavilion (kinkakuji, UNESCO), an impressive structure built overlooking a large pond, the top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. It has become the iconic building for Kyoto.

Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. The walking paths that cut through the bamboo groves make for a nice walk or bicycle ride. The groves are particularly attractive when there is a light wind and the tall bamboo stalks sway gently back and forth.

Tenryuji Temple (UNESCO) is the most important temple in Kyoto's

Arashiyama district. It was ranked first among the city's five great Zen temples, and its garden is a fine blend of aristocratic tradition and Zen culture, displaying the beauty of the four seasons.

Togetsu Bridge ("Moon Crossing Bridge") is Arashiyama's most iconic landmark. The bridge looks particularly attractive in combination with the forested mountainside in the background.

Tour ends at your hotel in Kyoto around **2:30PM**; **rest of the day is free for your own exploration; lunch and dinner are on your own.**

Day 09 **Kyoto** ⇄
Nov 02 **Nara**

Breakfast in hotel; met by English-speaking guide in the hotel lobby at **9AM** and commence a Fushimi & Nara full day tour by **private coach**. Today's sightseeing locations are:

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.

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 1692 is only two thirds of the original temple hall's size.

If time permits, visit Gion or Higashiyama area before transferring back to your hotel at **6PM**; **lunch and dinner are on your own.**

Day 10 **Kyoto**
Nov 03

Breakfast in the hotel; **enjoy a free day on your own today.**

Suggested sites you can visit on your own; Kiyomizu Temple, Sanjusangendo, Ginkaku Temple, Nijo Castle, Higashiyama District, Nishiki Market etc.



Day 11 **Kyoto** ⇄
Nov 04 **Osaka**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by your guide in the hotel lobby and transfer to Osaka by **private coach**; upon arrival, commence an Osaka half day tour. Sightseeing includes:

Osaka Castle, the castle tower is now entirely modern on the inside and even features an elevator for easier accessibility. It houses a very informative museum about the castle's history and Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

Namba District stroll, the city's most famous entertainment district and offers abundant dining and shopping choices. At night it is lit by hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous

Glico Running Man sign and Kani Doraku crab sign.

Tour ends in your hotel in Osaka; transfer to [ANA Crowne Plaza Osaka \(standard TWIN room\)](#) for check-in and the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 12 → Return

Nov 05

Breakfast in the hotel; met by a Japanese-speaking driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to Kansai Airport for your homebound flight to North America. Service ends.

Tour Itinerary Keys:

● Things that are on your own ● [Hotel accommodations](#) ● Time/ transportation methods

→=flights that are not included in the itinerary

🚗=drive, 🚆=train (included in the itinerary)

● Meals <B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner>

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

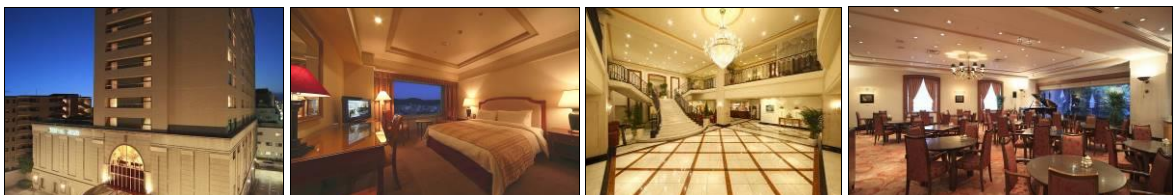
First Class Hotels/ Ryokan for Your Trip



Hotel New Otani, Garden Tower Tokyo



Yumoto Fujiya Hotel Hakone



Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto



ANA Crowne Plaza Osaka

Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land Price: **\$4,890 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)
\$4,890 USD per person, double occupancy (for a group of 10-14 travelers)
\$4,550 USD per person, double occupancy (for a group of 15-20 travelers)

Single Supplement: **\$1,480 USD** for single occupancy throughout the tour

What's Included in Tour Land Price:

- First class 4 star hotel/Ryokan accommodations, double occupancy
- Japanese domestic tourist class train tickets and ground transportation while on tour
- All tour related hotel and transportation taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 50 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All breakfasts and two dinners
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events as listed in the itinerary
- Private English-speaking local tour guide (national licensed) in each city
- Private and clean vehicles and professional driver throughout the tour (10 people +)
- ACT's professional Tour Leader/Escort (10 people +)

What's Not Included in Tour Land Prices:

- International air tickets (*will quote separately upon request*)
- Optional activities and extension tours (*will quote separately upon request*)
- Lunches, most dinners, and beverages
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

Cancellation Policy: **\$600 USD pp deposit is required at sign up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by 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 departure100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

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.** Access China Tours reserves the right to cancel any tour(s) that has insufficient number of travelers. In this case, we will try to find an alternative tour for tour participants. 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, 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, 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.)