

# TRAILS OF JAPAN

Traditional versus modern, nature versus urban – Japan is a land of contrasts. This exhilarating tour encompasses it all, delving deeper into Japan's rich past, present and future, covering robot restaurants to tranquil temples to potent saké and all that's in between.

**14 DAYS FROM**

**PER PERSON \$9,680** TWIN SHARE

**FROM SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, ADELAIDE & PERTH**

**ACTIVE**



▲ SNOW MONKEY

### Price includes

- Most meals (11 breakfasts & 3 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

### Price guide

- 14 Days, Twin Share from \$9,680 per person departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth
- Other cities please contact reservations for pricing and details.
- Single Supplement from \$2,035 - Ask about our 'willing to share' option
- Land Only (Tokyo to Osaka) 12 days from \$8,550 per person twin share



### ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Would you like to travel on a different date or personalise touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ TAIKO CLASS



▲ SHIBUYA ROAD CROSSING



▲ SHIN-HOTAKA ROPEWAY



### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the Robot Restaurant
- Take a Taiko drumming class
- Hike around Mt Fuji
- Visit the Snow Monkeys
- Explore sacred Koyasan
- Taste sake at a brewery

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1-2: FLY TO TOKYO

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

#### DAY 3: DISCOVER TOKYO

Explore the two sides of Tokyo, the modern and the traditional. The city tour begins at the Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest broadcasting tower at 634 metres. Close by is Asakusa, at the heart of which is Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest temple, and the vibrant Nakamise shopping street. This afternoon stop at the famous Shibuya crossing, the tranquil Meiji Shrine and the vibrant district of Harajuku. Finally, it's time for a unique Tokyo experience – the Robot Restaurant. Experience what can only be described as a sci-fi cabaret! Dinner is at your own expense. (B)

#### DAY 4: JAPANESE DRUMMING

This morning, try your hand at traditional Japanese drumming with a Taiko class. Learn the fundamental techniques of beating the 'wadaiko' with 'bachi'. Next,

head to Akihabara, known as Tokyo's electronics district. Wander the neon-bill-boarded streets and visit a Maid Café, one of Tokyo's most popular types of themed establishments. Lunch is at your own expense. In the afternoon, explore Tokyo's past at the Edo Tokyo Museum or Tokyo National Museum. (B)

#### DAY 5: MT FUJI

The perfectly symmetrical cone of mighty Mt Fuji is the iconic image of Japan. This morning journey out of Tokyo into some of Japan's picturesque rural landscapes. Pick up a hiking trail and walk 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 the Matsumoto Castle. Continue to Nagano stopping in Yudanaka to visit the Japanese Macaques, or Snow Monkeys, at the Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (Monkey Park). These creatures make use of the area's natural hot springs, bathing and playing in and around the water. (B)

#### DAY 7: JAPANESE ALPS

Travel to Hotaka and ride up into the Japanese Alps on the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway, reaching an observation platform at 2,156 metres, which gives breathtaking views over the surrounding mountains (weather permitting). Drive to Takayama where you will be staying at an onsen hotel. Here you can relax and 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 (at your own expense). (B,D)

#### DAY 8: SPIRITUAL KYOTO

Take a Limited Express train to Nagoya, where you will change onto a Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto. This afternoon, start discovering Kyoto's rich heritage with a visit to the enchanting Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine with its pathway of torii gates before admiring the views over the city from Kiyomizudera Temple. Stroll around the old neighbourhoods of Higashiyama and Gion, the geisha district, with a stop at Gion Corner. (B)

#### DAY 9: JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

Take a half-day bicycle tour of Kyoto, starting at Kinkaku-ji, the 'Golden Pavilion', before contemplating Zen at Ryoan-ji, Japan's most famous classical garden. Continue to the Arashiyama district for some free time to explore the Bamboo Forest. Later in the afternoon, witness the rituals involved in the preparation and pouring of matcha tea in a traditional tea ceremony. (B)

#### DAY 10: KYOTO CULTURE AND KOYASAN

Spend the morning discovering the craft of kimono creation at Nishijin Textile Centre, before learning the paper-folding art of origami and the complicated process of dressing in a traditional kimono. This afternoon, travel by road to Koyasan, where you will spend the night in a 13th-century temple in a traditional tatami room. (B,D)

#### DAY 11: MORNING PRAYERS

Rise early to join the monks for their morning service – hearing

### IMMERSE YOURSELF TOUR

the recitation and chanting is a magical experience. After breakfast, take a walking tour of Koyasan. Visit Kongobu-ji and Okunoin before travelling to Osaka. (B)

#### DAY 12: HIMEJI & SAKE BREWERY

Take a day tour to Himeji, visiting the 17th-century Himeji Castle. Continue on to a sake brewery, where you can learn about the brewing process of this potent rice wine and enjoy some tasters. Return to Osaka and experience the vibrant Dotonbori district. (B)

#### DAY 13-14: FLY OSAKA TO AUSTRALIA

Fly to Australia, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

### SEE SUMO WRESTLING



On the May and September departures, there is an extra special addition to day 4 – a 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.

### EXTEND YOUR STAY



#### HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA 2 NIGHTS FROM \$1,585pp

A city with origins that can be traced to the end of the 6th century. Hiroshima is most famous for one event in August. 1945 when the city was destroyed by an atomic bomb. Marvel at the Itsukushima Shrine also known as the Floating Torii Gate.

See page 34 for details. Price based on Twin Share. Additional charges may apply.

### DEPARTURES – per person twin share from SYD, MEL, BNE, ADL & PER

✈️ AIRFARES INCLUDED ✈️

2018 DATES		2019 DATES	
19 Mar - 01 Apr	\$10,380	26 Mar - 08 Apr	\$10,380
17 May - 30 May	\$9,680	10 Sep - 23 Sep	\$9,680
07 Oct - 20 Oct	\$9,880	15 Nov - 28 Nov	\$9,880
22 Mar - 04 Apr	\$10,380	29 Mar - 11 Apr	\$10,380
2019 DATES			
22 Mar - 04 Apr	\$10,890	28 Mar - 10 Apr	\$10,890
06 Apr - 19 Apr	\$10,890	04 May - 17 May	\$10,160

Important note: Above prices include airfare, land transportation and taxes. Cannot be set 12 July 2017 and subject to change. Itinerary is generally not part of the culture in Japan, however if you have requested excellent service, please feel free to fly your National Carrier at your discretion. Depending on airline schedules, extra flights per or paid for accommodation or transfers may be required at additional cost.