

JAPAN

CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR



DAILY ITINERARY (B) BREAKFAST (L) LUNCH (D) DINNER



INDICATES ADDED UNIQUE TOUR

APRIL 10th

Depart Canada

Fly overnight to Japan with WestJet

DAY 1: APRIL 11th

Tokyo

Welcome to Japan!

Transfer to your airport hotel for an overnight stay.

DAY 2: APRIL 12th

Tokyo – Hiroshima

This morning, fly from Tokyo to Hiroshima. After arrival you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in.

The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 3: APRIL 13th

Hiroshima

Today we will visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum, which is also the home of the Atomic Bomb Dome. Before the bomb, the area of what is now the Peace Park was the political and commercial heart of the city.

This afternoon we will take a boat to Miyajima Island. Formally named Itsukushima, the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", which literally means "shrine island" in Japanese. The shrine and its torii gate are unique for being built over water, seemingly floating in the sea at high tide. The shrine consists of multiple buildings, including a prayer hall, main hall, and noh theater stage, which are connected by boardwalks and supported by pillars above the sea. (B)



DAY 4: APRIL 14th


Hiroshima – Osaka

Today we leave Hiroshima and head to the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter. You will have free time to explore the townscape, known for the characteristically Japanese white walls of its residences and willow trees lining the banks of the Kurashiki River. This afternoon you will arrive in Osaka to check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 5: APRIL 15th


Osaka – Nara – Osaka

This morning you will travel to Nara. After, we'll visit Todai-ji Temple, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples, constructed in the 8th century. This temple houses various national treasures of Japan. Step foot in the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall), housing the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through Nara Park, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free. Visit the Osaka Castle, which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century, before being dropped off at Dotonbori, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture.

 **Tonight, enjoy a special Kaiseki Dinner.** Kaiseki is a traditional multi-course Japanese dinner that balances the taste, texture, appearance and colours of cuisine. Only fresh seasonal ingredients are used and are prepared in a way that aims to enhance their flavour profile. (B, D)

DAY 6: APRIL 16th

Osaka

 This morning enjoy the Kansai Cultural Tour with lunch. This tour will visit the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a mesmerizing grove of thousands of tall bamboo plants. A paved walkway runs through the middle of both sections, forming the famous "Bamboo Alley," one of Kyoto's most photographed sights. After, experience a traditional Japanese lunch at a local Japanese restaurant. After, we will visit one of the most sacred and impressive destinations – Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine and walk through the famous vermilion Torii Gates, the most picturesque location on tour.

This afternoon, you will get a chance to experience a unique Tea ceremony and Wakashi making. You will make Japanese sweets called nerikiri perfect for the tea ceremony and ideal for taking back home as a souvenir. The rest of the day is free at leisure. (B, L)

DAY 7: APRIL 17th

Osaka – Kyoto – Nagoya – Hamamastu

This morning experience a true modern marvel by riding the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto Station. Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. Countless temples, shrines, and other historically important structures survive in the city today. Visit Higashi Hongan-ji, which is a religious complex of the Pure Land (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhism. Its monumental architecture is renowned for being sheltered by the largest wooden roof in the world. Here we can also take in an amazing view of Kyoto tower. Visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), a World Cultural Heritage featuring a shining golden pavilion and a pond garden. After, visit the shining Kinkaku with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen.

Then we will visit Nishiki market and experience local life. Rich with history and tradition, the market is renowned as the place to obtain many of Kyoto's famous foods and goods. Travel to Nagoya to visit Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota which started out as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots. Continue our trip to Hamamatsu to stay overnight. (B)

DAY 8: APRIL 18th

Hamamastu – Mt. Fuji

Today, visit Oshino Hakkai. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in crystal clear spring water that is revered by locals.

Afterwards, visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, and Hakone Shrine. Enjoy the picturesque view of Mount Fuji from a distance onboard the cruise on Lake Ashi, a crater lake famous for its views of the famous peak. Finish the day with a true cultural experience in the hot spring hotel. Dress in Yukata bath robes and enjoy a traditional dinner. (B, D)


DAY 9: APRIL 19th

Mt. Fuji – Tokyo

Visit Meiji Shrine in the morning, which is dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Your next stop today is Tokyo Metro to enjoy a panoramic view of the enormous city. Later, stroll through the Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon Temple), one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. Then walk along the famous 820-ft long Nakamise shopping street where you can explore the lines of stalls selling different Japanese-styled goods and souvenirs. (B)

DAY 10: APRIL 20th

Tokyo

 Kamakura & Yokohama Tour. Explore two of Japan's most captivating cities on a full-day Kamakura and Yokohama trip from Tokyo. First, travel southwest by coach to Kamakura, a picturesque seaside city nestled in forested hills on Sagami Bay renowned for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, and rich history.

Next, continue to Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city. Visit Sankeien garden and the Red Brick Warehouse, where early-20th century custom buildings now house stylish shops, and stroll in waterside Yamashita Park and China town.

This evening is at leisure. (B)

DAY 11: APRIL 21st

Tokyo

Free day to explore Tokyo. Narita area has a large shopping mall and a temple nearby, there is a pedestrian pathway to temple is filled with street food and traditional Japanese food.

DAY 12: APRIL 22nd

Tokyo – Edmonton

This morning your tour ends with breakfast. After breakfast, you will transfer to the airport for your return flight to Canada. (B)