



Wonders of Japan

Private Tour | 10 Days | Moderate

Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Yudanaka – Kyoto

Enjoy Japan at your own pace, immerse yourself in unique and fascinating culture visiting natural wonders and imperial heritage on this private adventure.

- Explore the vibrant city of Tokyo
- Visit the iconic Mount Fuji
- See the cheeky Snow Monkeys
- Relax in a traditional Japanese onsen
- Travel by speedy bullet train
- Discover the charms of Kyoto



Wonders of Japan tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Transportation and transfers using public transport where stated (please note - not all transfers are included)
- English speaking Local Guides where stated
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

Private Tours:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan on a flexible private tour.

Moderate Tours:

'Wonders of Japan' is a **moderate** tour. This means that the itinerary requires a good level of fitness.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time, often involving steps or uneven ground.

Of course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Itinerary – Wonders of Japan

Days 1-2: Tokyo

You will be met on arrival at Tokyo Narita Airport today and taken by shared shuttle bus to your hotel. Please note that as this is a shared bus, there may be a few stops before you arrive at your hotel (maximum of 3 other stops). Journey time is around 2 hours and this is a comfortable and easy way to make today's transfer. Look out for some great views as you ride the elevated highways into town!



Please note: Check-in to your hotel will be from 2pm today, early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservations consultant.

Destination Information

Tokyo – One of the world's most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon-lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

Optional Tour: Tokyo Skytree and Akihabara Tour

Start off your journey in Japan with a spectacular panoramic view of the entire city from Tokyo Skytree, Japan's tallest building. The Tokyo Skytree is a television broadcasting tower and landmark of Tokyo, with a height of 634 meters. A large shopping complex is located at its base.

Next, visit Akihabara, Tokyo's 'Electric Town'. Akihabara is famous for its hundreds of electronic shops selling a mind-boggling range of gadgets, gizmos, and devices. In recent times, Akihabara has become even more famous for its "Otaku" culture. These are young Japanese who are "obsessed" with cosplay, manga, anime, gaming, or other aspects of Japanese culture. Last, if time permits, enjoy a stroll in Ginza, Tokyo's most elegant shopping mecca, and visit a department store's basement food floor – you will marvel at all the delicacies on sale.

Please contact us for more details.

Day 3: Tokyo

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, you will take an 8-hour private day tour of the city with a local guide, travelling by public transport, as Tokyoites do, in order to help you to get a real feel for the Japanese capital. Your guide will come to your hotel at around 9am (or any time you choose) to meet you and your day will proceed from there. With a guide at your disposal you are free to set the pace of the day to be as busy or relaxed as you choose. You will first visit Shibuya Crossing, Meiji Shrine, and Harajuku before having lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, you will head to Asakusa and take a cruise down the Sumida River to Hamarikyu Gardens. Your day of guiding will finish at around 5PM with the guide either dropping you back at your hotel or anywhere else in the city you wish to spend the evening.



Destination Information

Shibuya Crossing – Rumoured to be the busiest intersection in the world, Shibuya Crossing is a famous pedestrian scramble crossing in the fashionable Shibuya district. Watch with fascination as hundreds of people, coming from all directions, cross at the same time.

Meiji Shrine – Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken.

Harajuku – A Tokyo neighbourhood of about a square mile, Harajuku is the centre of Japanese youth culture and fashion. It also offers shopping for adults as well as some historic sights.

Hamarikyu Gardens – Hamarikyu Gardens is a traditional Japanese style garden which sits at the mouth of the Sumida River. It features seawater ponds which change level with the tides, and a teahouse on an island where visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery.

Day 4: Mount Fuji

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, you will be taking a full day excursion to Mount Fuji and the Hakone National Park. Your day will get underway with a shared coach to the 5th Station of Mount Fuji where, on a clear day, you will be able to take in the spectacular views. Please note that travelling to the 5th station at Mount Fuji is only possible if weather conditions permit it. Continue by coach to Hakone, where you will board a cruise boat and travel across Lake Ashi to Hakone-en Garden. From the garden, you will take the ropeway up Mount Komagatake for a spectacular panoramic view of Mount Fuji and the valley below. In the late afternoon, you will begin the drive back to Tokyo arriving early evening. The tour drops you off in the Ginza and Shinjuku areas from where you will make your way back to your hotel.



Destination Information

Mount Fuji - At 3,776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains and an iconic symbol of the country. Mount Fuji is notoriously shy and is often enveloped by clouds.

Lake Ashi – Formed after Mount Hakone's last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.

Mount Komagatake – Mount Komagatake is a 1,357m high lava dome in the Hakone region, created by a volcanic eruption 40,000 years ago.

Day 5: Tokyo - Yudanaka

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

You will need to make your own way to Tokyo train station this morning. From there take the Shinkansen to Nagano, the main access point for many areas of the Japanese Alps and host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics. The 222km journey takes around 1 hour and 45 minutes. In Nagano, you may wish to visit the famous Buddhist Zenkoji Temple, home to what is thought to be the first Buddhist statue ever brought to Japan. Continuing your journey from Nagano you will take a local train to Yudanaka; the 33km journey takes 45 minutes and all seats are unreserved. In the summer this journey will see you through fruit groves and vineyards, in the winter a blanket of snow covers the rural landscape. On arrival, a shuttle bus will take you to your ryokan in Yudanaka. Dinner tonight will be a traditional Kaiseki meal made up of the freshest local ingredients.

Destination Information

Nagano – The mountain city of Nagano evolved as a temple town around the magnificent temple Zenkoji. The city is a treasure trove for nature, history and culture.

Yudanaka – Famous for the wild snow monkeys, the Yudanaka area is surrounded by mountains and has a long history as a hot spring resort, dating back hundreds of years.

Day 6: Yudanaka

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Your day is at leisure independently to explore the hot spring resort of Yudanaka. The highlights include the Snow Monkeys who spend their days soaking in the natural hot pools of the Jigokudani Monkey Park. You may also visit the nearby town of Obuse with its many open gardens or the sake brewery.



Destination Information

Jigokudani Monkey Park – Inhabited by Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani Monkey Park offers visitors the unique experience of seeing wild monkeys bathing in a natural hot spring.

Obuse – Obuse is a small town just outside Nagano City. As well as many art galleries, the town of about 12,000 people has sake breweries and craft shops.

Day 7: Yudanaka - Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning you will make your own way to the train station and take a 45-minute train to Nagano. From Nagano you will use your Japan Rail Pass to take a Ltd Express train to Nagoya and then the Shinkansen (bullet train) on to Kyoto. It's an easy journey with just one change to make and full details will be in your info-pack. Journey time is just under 4 hours.

Destination Information

Kyoto – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

Day 8: Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast

Today, take a full day tour of the city by public transport with a private guide at your discretion. You will pay a visit to Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun. After his death it became a Buddhist Temple at his request, and is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples. Visit Ryoanji temple with its famous zen garden and Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle built by the founder of the Edo Shogunate and surrounded by stunning gardens. The main building was completed in 1603, and is famous for its architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floor.



Destination Information

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) – The Golden Pavilion is a Buddhist temple and an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

Ryoanji Temple – Ryoanji Temple is a Zen temple renowned for its garden which features a dry, sand landscape with large rocks and smooth pebbles. It is Japan's most famous rock garden.

Nijo Castle – A UNESCO world Heritage site, Nijo Castle's palace buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of castle palace architecture of Japan's feudal era. The castle also features two water fortifications and several beautiful gardens.

Day 9: Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast

You have another full day to explore Kyoto independently or you may like to use the included Japan Rail Pass to make a day trip to another destination independently.

Nara, 40 minutes south of Kyoto, is an excellent choice with its collection of UNESCO World Heritage sights centred around an attractive park area (with resident sacred deer!). Nara was capital of Japan for a short period around AD700 and the legacy of this is a wealth of beautiful temples and shrines including the huge bronze Buddha statue inside Todaiji temple, the world's largest wooden building.



If Kyoto has shown you enough of the traditional side of Japan for now, you may like to make a day trip to one of the more modern destinations nearby. The vibrant metropolis of Osaka (30mins) is famous for the down-to-earth attitude of its people and is considered one of the best places in all of Japan for eating and drinking.

Kobe (30mins) is another good option; an attractive, cosmopolitan port city famous for its fine local beef and its remarkable recovery from the devastating earthquake of 1995.

The castle town of Himeji (45mins from Kyoto) has long been a popular day trip from Kyoto. There is another fine original castle at Hikone (1hr from Kyoto), overlooking Lake Biwa, which makes an excellent day trip if you are keen to see an original Japanese castle in all its glory.

It is also possible to get as far as Hiroshima (2 hrs) in a day, to visit the sombre Peace Park and Museum. We can include instructions for making these (and other) day trips in your tailor-made Info-Pack - let us know what interests you.

Day 10: Depart Kyoto

Meals included: Breakfast

Your day is at leisure before your train via Shin Osaka to Osaka Kansai Airport (total journey time around 1 hour and 45 minutes) for your flight back to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

Wonders of Japan Travel Information

Visas

A visa is not required for UK citizens visiting Japan.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your national escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Eating in Japan

Some meals (excluding drinks) are included in our private tours. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Japan.

Accommodation

Three, Four and five star hotels are available on private tours. Please speak to one of our reservation consultants to discuss the standard of hotels you would like to book.

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. There is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Japan. Please note that in Japan rooms booked for single use are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room. Hotels in Japan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Transport

As this is a private Japan tour, there will be times when you will need to transfer independently; transfers are simple and can easily be done in a taxi. You will also be travelling on the trains independently when transferring between cities.

Development in Japan

Japan is a developed country and as such matches the west in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

Climate

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

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