



Discover Japan

14 days, Tokyo to Tokyo

Trip code AJDJ

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Local Street Food Tour in Osaka, Osaka

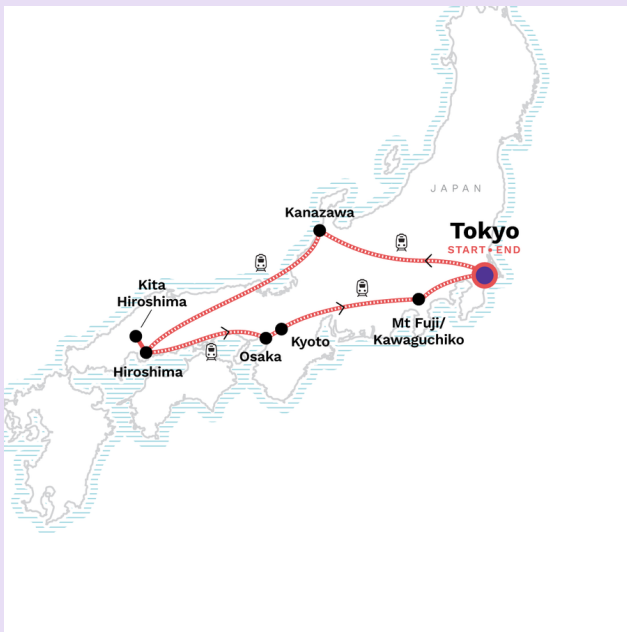
- Your Wellness Moment: Onsen Spa Visit, Kawaguchiko
- Your Discover Moment: Tokyo
- Free morning in Tokyo
- Visit Meiji Shrine and Harajuku
- Orientation walk in Kanazawa
- Guided visit to Higashi Chaya District
- Kanazawa city tour including Kenroku-en Garden
- Free afternoon in Kanazawa
- Miyajima Island visit including Itsukushima Shrine and Floating Torii Gate
- Free time in Hiroshima
- Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum visit
- Dotonbori street food and exploration
- Free day in Osaka
- Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine visit
- Free time in Kyoto
- CEO-led Gion district evening walk
- Arashiyama Bamboo Forest visit
- Free afternoon in Kyoto
- Lake Kawaguchiko walk in the Five Lakes region
- Onsen spa experience at ryokan
- Kaiseki dinner at ryokan
- Lake Kawaguchiko walk and Fuji viewpoints
- Free time in Tokyo
- Japan Rail (JR) pass
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing May 8th, 2027 and onwards

Itinerary



Itinerary Notes

Luggage size restriction –
Effective from May 2020
onwards

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We strongly recommend bringing a day pack or backpack to use during the day, in addition to your carry-on sized luggage. Please see "What to take" under Tour details for more information.

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Arrive in the vibrant metropolis of Tokyo and head to your starting hotel around 4:00 pm, with the afternoon free to settle in and take in your first impressions of the city. There are no scheduled activities until the evening, giving you time to rest after your journey or explore the neighbourhood at your own pace.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting, so we recommend arrival time to be no later than 3PM. Please ensure you arrive on time for the welcome meeting and bring your passport so your CEO can collect the required information for your train tickets. Refer to your voucher for the most up to date welcome meeting time.

The most convenient way to get around Japan is by public transportation and on foot. The country's train system is often considered one of the best in the entire world so the majority of our trips utilize this efficient train network. In this tour, you will need to be able to spend the majority of the day on your feet and carry your luggage through busy train stations and streets. On average, tours in Japan walk about 15,000 steps a day. Please ensure you are fit enough to carry your own luggage and spend most of the day on your feet.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Head out to explore the serene grounds of Meiji Shrine and the vibrant streets of Harajuku, with free time for lunch at your own expense to sample the city's incredible food scene. Later, board the Shinkansen and journey through Japan at high speed. Arrive in Kanazawa and head out to explore. The evening is free for an orientation walk around the hotel area, with the option to join an optional group dinner or explore local restaurants independently at your own pace.

Please note that the new JR Pass validation policy asks travellers to come to the office counter to activate their JR Pass.



Today's Activities

Visit to Meiji Jingu and Harajuku

Tokyo

Step into the heart of Tokyo's cultural and creative spirit with a visit to the serene Meiji Shrine and the vibrant streets of Harajuku. Wander beneath towering torii gates and through peaceful forested pathways at Meiji Jingu, one of Tokyo's most important Shinto shrines, before emerging into the colorful energy of Harajuku. Here, trendy boutiques, quirky cafés, and fashionable streets like Takeshita Street showcase the city's cutting-edge youth culture and unique style.

Bullet Train

Tokyo - Kanazawa

2h30m-3h

400km

Get to your next destination faster than the speed of light (ok maybe not that fast) aboard a high-speed train.

Free Time

Kanazawa

Spend the evening getting know Kanazawa. Opt to attend a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Spend the day uncovering the refined charm of Kanazawa, beginning in its beautifully preserved geisha quarter, where wooden teahouses and narrow lanes in the Higashi Chaya District evoke the atmosphere of a bygone era. Continue on to the breathtaking Kenrokuen Garden, widely regarded as one of Japan's most celebrated landscape gardens, where ponds, bridges, seasonal flowers, and sweeping pathways create a perfect harmony of design and nature. After exploring the gardens, you may choose to visit one of Kanazawa's many museums or dive deeper into the city's traditional crafts scene. For a taste of local flavour, head to the lively Omicho Market, where fresh seafood and regional specialties showcase the best of the city's culinary heritage.



Today's Activities

Higashi Geisha District Visit

Kanazawa

Step back in time with a visit to the Higashi Chaya geisha district of Kanazawa. Learn about the geisha culture, prevalent in Kanazawa since the 17th century. Visit the traditional two-story wooden houses decorated with lattice and discover the traditions behind this iconic Japanese way of life.

Kenroku-En Garden Visit

Kanazawa

Walk around this breathtaking garden, ranked one of the top three in Japan. With unique bridges, ponds and fountains, pagodas and tea houses there's lots to see here in any season.

Free Time

Kanazawa

Enjoy some free time to explore the vibrant streets and hidden corners of Kanazawa at your own pace. Wander through atmospheric neighbourhoods, discover local cafés and shops, or simply soak in the city's relaxed blend of tradition and creativity.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Kanazawa Castle Visit

Kanazawa

Free-320JPY

Visit the massive castle located beside the Kenrokuen Garden. At over 400 years old, the castle has a great history and is the perfect place to wrap up exploration of the gardens.

Nagamachi Samurai District Walk

Kanazawa

Step back in time with a visit to the Nagamachi Samurai district of Kanazawa. Take a walk through the historic samurai district located just below the Kanazawa Castle, where traditionally samurai and their families lived in mud huts.

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art

Kanazawa

450-1200JPY

If you are interested in eccentric art visit this beautiful museum with unique exhibits and architecture. Capture a trippy underwater photo in the simulated swimming pool.

Myoryuji Ninja Temple Visit

Kanazawa

1200JPY

Visit the famous Ninja Temple. While there's no evidence linking the temple to ninjas, the hidden doorways, passages and escape routes seem designed for stealthy attackers. Please leave all nunchucks with security.

Enjoy a relaxed free morning in Kanazawa before continuing your journey south by train to Hiroshima. Opt to join a visit to the lively Omicho Market, where fresh seafood, seasonal produce, and local specialties offer a true taste of the region. Alternatively, enjoy your own independent adventure through Kanazawa's streets at your own pace before regrouping for the onward journey.

**Today's Activities**

Free Time

Kanazawa

Enjoy a relaxed free time to explore the charm and character of Kanazawa at your own pace.

Train

Kanazawa – Hiroshima

3h-3h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

**Optional Activities - Day 4**

Omicho Market Tour

Kanazawa

Discover the vibrant heart of local food culture with a visit to the bustling Omicho Market in Kanazawa. Known as the city's kitchen, this lively market is filled with fresh seafood, seasonal produce, and regional delicacies. Wander through the energetic aisles, sample local flavours, and get a glimpse into the ingredients and traditions that shape Kanazawa's renowned cuisine.

Take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island, not far from the coast.

Here, view one of the most photographed sights in Japan– the floating Torii Gate. The shrine itself dates back to the 6th century and is designed in a pier-like structure.

Enjoy time to explore the island and its many shrines and temples. Sample local treats like maple leaf shaped cakes, and opt to hike up to the peak of the island, Mt Misen, to see spectacular views of the surrounding islands.



Today's Activities

Ferry

Hiroshima - Miyajima

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Miyajima Island Visit

Miyajima - Hiroshima

Take a trip to Miyajima Island, famed as one of Japan's most scenic spots, with a free afternoon to explore. See the famous floating Torii Gate, set out in the bay, which glows extraordinarily at sunset. The island is dotted with shrines and temples, populated by deer, and traversed with hiking trails for those who want to get some exercise. There are also lanes full of souvenirs and tasty treats. Visit Miyajima at your own pace, and have the option to hike up to the peak of the island, Mt Misen, to see spectacular views of the surrounding islands.

Free Time

Miyajima

Spend free time however you choose. Opt to hike, try the region's famed oysters, or check out the important sights and museums.

Ferry

Miyajima - Hiroshima

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.



Optional Activities - Day 5

Mt. Misen Visit

Miyajima

Free-2000JPY

2-6km

Set out for the summit of Mt. Misen, Miyajima's highest peak at 500m (1,640 ft) above sea level. Opt to hike one of three trails through the forest and keep an eye out for wild deer or catch a ride on the ropeway and walk the remaining distance to the top. Take in great views of the Seto Inland Sea and on a clear day see as far as the city of Hiroshima.

Day 6

Journey to the Hiroshima Countryside

Start the day in Hiroshima with a meaningful visit to the moving Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the powerful exhibits at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, reached via local tram. Continue your journey beyond the city and travel into the countryside, arriving at Kitahiroshima Town, where you will be welcomed and transferred by your traditional village stay. Settle into your accommodation, take time to meet your hosts and get familiar with your surroundings. In the evening, share a homemade dinner with locals and experience everyday life in the countryside. After dinner, enjoy free time to relax, unwind, and soak in the peaceful atmosphere before bed.



Meals included

Dinner



Today's Activities

Hiroshima Park and Peace Memorial

Hiroshima

Walk through the Peace Park in the centre of Hiroshima, a living memorial dedicated to the tens of thousands who died from the atomic bomb blast in 1945. Visit the statue of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who died of leukemia as a result of the bomb blast, despite folding 1,000 origami paper cranes to appeal to the gods to make her well. See the frame of the Gembaku Dome, the sole building to withstand the explosion. Reflect, remember, and be reminded of the power we all hold to create peace.

Hiroshima Countryside Village Stay

Hiroshima

Travel into the peaceful countryside surrounding Hiroshima for a memorable overnight stay in a traditional village stay. Here, you'll step into a slower rhythm of life, sharing dinner with locals, learning about their daily routines, and experiencing genuine rural hospitality firsthand. It's a rare opportunity to connect with the heart of Japan through its people, food, and countryside traditions.

Day 7

Arrive in Osaka

Wake up in the countryside and start your day with a relaxed walk around the old farmhouse, taking time to visit with local farmers and experience everyday rural life. Enjoy a slow, authentic start to the day before saying farewell to your hosts and boarding the bus back toward the city, where you will continue your journey by Shinkansen from Hiroshima to Osaka. On arrival, head out to explore the vibrant streets of Dotonbori. Enjoy a lively street food lunch, neon-lit canal views, and free time to wander Osaka's bustling entertainment district at your own pace.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Bullet Train

Hiroshima-eki - Ōsaka

3h

Get to your next destination faster than the speed of light (ok maybe not that fast) aboard a high-speed train.

ACTIVITY

Head into the energetic heart of Osaka and dive into its famous street food culture with a local-style lunch on the go. Afterwards, explore the vibrant Dotonbori district, where neon lights, canal-side walkways, and endless food stalls create one of Japan's most iconic urban experiences. Sample local favourites, soak up the lively atmosphere, and enjoy free time to wander at your own pace through this buzzing entertainment hub.

Free Time

Osaka

Enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore Osaka at your leisure.

Day 8

Free day in Osaka

Enjoy a free day to experience Osaka at your own pace. Explore vibrant neighbourhoods, sample the city's renowned street food, browse bustling shopping districts, or visit cultural landmarks. Your CEO can provide recommendations to help you make the most of your time in this energetic city.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Osaka

Enjoy a free full day in Osaka exploring the city at your leisure.

Day 9

Journey to Kyoto

Arrive in the timeless capital of Kyoto aboard the high-speed bullet train, then drop your bags at the hotel before heading out to explore. Take a local train to the iconic Fushimi Inari Taisha, where thousands of vibrant red torii gates wind through forested hillside paths. In the evening, join your CEO for a guided walk through the atmospheric Gion District, where lantern-lit streets and traditional wooden machiya townhouses bring old Kyoto to life.



Today's Activities

Bullet Train

Osaka - Kyoto

1h30m

40km

Get to your next destination faster than the speed of light (ok maybe not that fast) aboard a high-speed train.

Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine Visit

Kyoto

Visit the Fushimi Inari shrine, located just outside of Kyoto. Walk under the thousands of iconic torii gates (as seen in the film *Memoirs of a Geisha*) and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. The shrine itself is at the base of the Inari mountain but includes many trails up to smaller shrines in the area.

In the morning, Walk beneath the soaring green stalks of the enchanting Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, one of Kyoto's most iconic natural landmarks. As sunlight filters through the towering bamboo and the pathways gently rustle in the breeze, this peaceful forest offers a uniquely atmospheric and unforgettable experience. Then, enjoy a free afternoon to uncover the timeless beauty and spiritual heart of Kyoto.



Today's Activities

Arashiyama Bamboo Forest Visit

arashiyama

Wander through the dense bamboo groves of Arashiyama and enjoy the surrounding nature. Opt to stop in at some of the local temples and gift shops.

Free Time

Kyoto

Set out to explore the captivating city of Kyoto, where centuries-old traditions blend seamlessly with everyday life. From lantern-lined lanes and historic temples to peaceful gardens and bustling local markets, every corner of the city offers a glimpse into Japan's rich cultural heritage and timeless charm.



Optional Activities - Day 10

Zen Gardens of Ryōan-ji

Kyoto

600JPY

The Ryōan-ji garden is one of the best examples of kare-sansui, or dry landscape, a type of Zen garden. Fifteen large rocks are placed within a sea of white pebbles raked into linear patterns to facilitate meditation. Stand on the platform to get the best view from above. Stroll the grounds around the Ryōan-ji Temple and along the Kyōyō-chi pond.

Daisen-in Zen Rock Garden Visit

Kyoto

500JPY

Take a walk through the gardens around Daisen-in Temple. This zen garden uses gravel, sand and stones to recreate a river and ocean, symbolizing the Buddhist journey through life.

Gion Walk

Kyoto

Free

Walk through Gion, Kyoto's most famous geisha district. Visit shops, restaurants and ochaya (teahouses), where geiko (Kyoto dialect for geisha) and maiko (geiko apprentices) entertain.

Day 11

Travel to the Mount Fuji Region

Journey from Kyoto to the breathtaking Mount Fuji region, arriving in the scenic lakeside town of Fujikawaguchiko by mid-afternoon. With stunning mountain views and a slower pace of life, the area is perfect for optional walks around the peaceful shores of Lake Kawaguchi. Later, unwind in the traditional onsen spa at tonight's accommodation before sitting down to an unforgettable Japanese kaiseki dinner – a beautifully prepared multi-course dining experience that highlights seasonal flavors and local culinary artistry.



Meals included

Dinner



Today's Activities

Train

Kyoto – Fujikawaguchiko

5h30m-6h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

ACTIVITY

Visit the natural hot springs in traditional style and soak in the waters and feel all your troubles float away.

Spend the morning immersed in the natural beauty of the Fuji Five Lakes region, exploring the scenic lakeside landscapes of Fujikawaguchiko on foot. Surrounded by fresh mountain air and postcard-worthy views of Mount Fuji, this peaceful area offers a striking contrast to Japan's bustling cities. Later, board a train bound for Tokyo, where the energy, lights, and excitement of the capital await.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Lake Kawaguchiko Walk

Fujikawaguchiko

2h

Set out on a walk through this pocket of the Five Lakes region for unforgettable views of the local landscape. Depending on the weather, capture a glimpse of the snow-capped summit of Mt Fuji.

Train

Fujikawaguchiko – Tokyo

3h-3h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Day in Tokyo

Enjoy a full free day to experience the electric pace and endless possibilities of Tokyo at your own rhythm. Dive into the city's eclectic neighborhoods, wander through peaceful gardens and fascinating museums, indulge in world-class shopping, or discover hidden cafés tucked between neon-lit streets. This evening, choose to join an optional final group dinner, a great opportunity to reflect on the journey and share one last meal together in Japan's vibrant capital.



Optional Activities - Day 13

Ueno Park Visit

Tokyo

Free

As Japan's most popular city park, Ueno is known for its museums and cherry blossoms. Stroll the pathways, admire the thousands of trees, including approximately 800 Somei-yoshino cherry trees, look for lotus on the pond, or opt to visit the temples and museums (entrance fees).

Sensō-ji Temple Visit

Asakusa

Free

Explore Sensō-ji Temple, a colourful Buddhist temple and the oldest temple in the entire city. Leading up to the temple the street is lined with shops selling yummy food and great souvenirs.

Ginza Shopping

Tokyo

Free

The Ginza district is Tokyo's equivalent of Fifth Avenue in New York. Window shop at Chanel, Dior, Gucci and Louis Vuitton, then check out the latest electronics at the Sony showroom or Apple store. Visit the Wako department store with its historic clock tower, housed in a building that dates back to 1894. If you are there on a weekend, head to Ginza's main street where pedestrians rule without Tokyo's traffic.

Meiji Shrine (Meiji Jingū) Visit

Tokyo

Free-1000JPY

Visit this shrine dedicated to the 123rd emperor of Japan, Emperor Meiji and his wife. The shrine is a great place to escape the bustle of the city and wander the grounds along the wide walking paths.

Imperial Palace East Gardens Walk

Tokyo

Free

The Imperial Palace in Tokyo's city centre is home to Japan's Emperor and Empress. It is surrounded by a moat and three gardens, all open to the public. Stroll throughout the grounds, admire the azaleas and hydrangeas (when in season), discover the original stone wall that surrounded the palace back in 17th to 19th centuries during the days when samurai warriors defended the ruler. Visit nearby Sannomaru-Shozo-kan museum and see exquisite kimonos and Japanese paintings.

Depart at any time today, but consider extending your stay to soak up more of Tokyo's endless energy and contrasts. From neon-lit streets and hidden ramen alleys to tranquil shrines and late-night city views, Japan's dynamic capital always has another side waiting to be discovered.



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

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- Japan Rail (JR) pass
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Ride the Shinkansen from Tokyo to Kanazawa and wander its preserved Edo-period streets, Hike through the atmospheric Arashiyama Bamboo Grove on the outskirts of Kyoto, Cross to Miyajima Island and photograph the torii gate rising from the sea, Follow the path of a thousand torii gates up the forested slopes of Fushimi Inari, Take a guided evening walk through Kyoto's historic Gion geisha district, Unwind in a traditional onsen ryokan with Mount Fuji framed in the window

Itinerary Notes

Luggage size restriction – Effective from May 2020 onwards

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Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Are there Itinerary notes?

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What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1. The most convenient way to get around Japan is by public transportation and on foot. The country's train system is often considered one of the best in the entire world so the majority of our trips utilize this efficient train network. In this tour, you will need to be able to spend the majority of the day on your feet and carry your luggage through busy train stations and streets. On average, tours in Japan walk about 15,000 steps a day. Please ensure you are fit enough to carry your own luggage and spend most of the day on your feet.

2. Japan Rail Pass

Please note that only foreigners traveling as a tourist are able to use a Japan Rail Pass. If you are a Japanese citizen/resident or traveling on a student/business/military/diplomatic visa, please advise us at time of booking as you will not be able to take advantage of the rail pass.

3. Tattoos

Tattoos are not common or widely accepted in Japan. There is no cause for concern, but do your best to cover your tattoos when possible and note that you may not be permitted to enter public spas or onsens (hot springs).

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5. ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are traveling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

What is the maximum and typical number of participants on this tour?

Max 15, avg 12.

What meals are included in this trip?

2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. G Adventures knows that worldwide, local cuisines define the cultures. We think sampling regional delicacies are intrinsic to truly experiencing the country. We want you to be able to try foods according to your individual tastes, comforts, and budgets.

Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. At times, meals will be taken together as a group. Other times, your CEO will point you in the direction of several delicious options, and you will have free time to pick and choose at will. Often in Japan it is fun to get some snacks and beverages with the salarymen in the evenings at small restaurants, and other times it is fun to sit with a few friends at a sushi train.

Your CEO will always strive to cater for all dietary requirements/preferences, but please keep in mind that Vegetarianism/Veganism is very uncommon in Japan so this may mean a more limited selection for you.

Please refer to the Meals Included and Budget Information for information regarding included meals on your trip. Japan's kitchen is at your fingertips!

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Bullet train, local train, private vehicle, public bus, subway, tram, walking.

How will we travel between destinations?

On our tours in Japan we use public transport, making use of Japan's world famous transport system. From the super fast Shinkansen Bullet Train to Kyoto's extensive local bus network, we ride with the locals.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

There are no internal flights on this trip itinerary.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (11 nts), village stay with shared facilities (1 nt), traditional inn (1 nt)

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Nights 4 & 5 in Takayama. *Beginning for departures on May 8, 2027: Day 06 accommodation will be shared facilities.

What should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

Japan is one of the most populous countries in the world and space is at a premium. Therefore, hotels rooms are small! Additionally, most Japanese hotels do not have designated non-smoking rooms. Therefore, we ask hotels to deoderise rooms before check in. Please note rooms for couples usually still have two twin beds in Japan. Rooms with one large Queen or King bed are not common.

Ryokan are traditional inns found across Japan. Featuring tatami floors (soft mats of woven straw), futon beds, Japanese-style baths, cotton kimono (casual robe worn to lounge around or to head to the bath), and elaborate meals (often served in the comfort of your own room), a ryokan is the perfect place to experience traditional customs and hospitality. As ryokan are usually top tier accommodations, most guests stay only one night, often to celebrate a special occasion or holiday. Don't be intimidated by the formalities inherent to a stay at a ryokan, your hosts will welcome you the same way they do all their guests. Have fun and enjoy this relaxing opportunity to learn more about Japan's unique customs.

Minshuku are Japan's answer to the Western bed and breakfast. Similar to ryokan, they have traditional features like tatami floors, futon beds, and Japanese-style baths. Minshuku are often family-run, and as such they offer a great opportunity to interact with local people and learn more about the nation's customs. More affordable and simpler than ryokan, minshuku tend to have smaller guestrooms, shared bathroom facilities, and any included meals (traditional, local, and delicious) are served in a communal dining room.

Please note that some of the traditional Japanese inns used on this tour only offer shared bathing facilities. This means that individual shower stalls will not be available, instead several shower stations are available in an open, same-sex bathing area. Shared bathhouses and onsen (hot springs) are an essential part of Japan's culture, traditionally serving as a place for men or women to gather, relax, and discuss the days happenings.

What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

If you would like to book an airport Arrival shuttle for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival shuttle, our driver will be waiting for you with a sign with the transfer company name "GREEN TOMATO" on it outside of the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call the Emergency Phone number: +81 90 1223 2336 or +81 80 6779 1851

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), join your group and CEO for a Welcome Meeting in the evening around 6:00 pm.

Please ensure you arrive on time for the welcome meeting and bring your passport so your CEO can collect the required information for your train tickets.

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

What should I do if I can't find my airport transfer or experience arrival issues?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

Who do I contact for arrival issues or in the event of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Office (Japan)

During office hours: Mon-Fri (Excluding national holidays) 9:00-18:00 Local Time

From outside Japan: 1st contact +81 3-6809-1212. (2nd contact +81 90 1223 2336 or +81 80 6779 1851)

From within Japan: 1st contact 03-6809-1212 (2nd contact 090 1223 2336 or 080 6779 1851)

After office hours emergency number

Primary phone: +81 90 1223 2336 or +81 80 6779 1851 (from within Japan: 090 1223 2336 or 080 6779 1851)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What are the packing guidelines and luggage restrictions?

It's essential to pack as lightly as possible for rail travel in Japan. All G Adventures tours use the world-famous Shinkansen bullet trains, which have a restriction on maximum luggage size.

Any luggage brought on board must be less than 160cm in total (calculated as the sum of the height + width + depth of your luggage). This is roughly the size that most airline companies consider as "carry-on baggage" and allow in overhead storage compartments. We strongly recommend bringing a day pack or backpack to use during the day (for daily essentials like water, cameras, passport, etc.).

Please note that travellers who bring luggage that exceeds this restriction will be directly penalized by the Central Japan Railway Company. Any luggage between 160–250cm will require a fee of 1,000 JPY per luggage, for each leg of your train journey, and is strictly subject to availability. Any luggage over 251cm in total is prohibited on the Shinkansen trains.

If you absolutely must bring more than what fits into a single carry-on bag plus day pack, you may bring a second carry-on bag which also must be less than 160cm in total. Please note, however, that as with all G Adventures tours, you must be able to carry your luggage unassisted.

You will also be walking with your luggage in busy public train stations to catch connecting trains, so it is highly recommended that you travel light and have easy to handle luggage and capable of walking up and down the stairs with your luggage without any assistance. A large bag will be an inconvenience to you and will slow you down!

We recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures trips! Most travellers carry a backpack or rolling bag of small to medium size. You will also need a day-pack/rucksack to carry daily essentials like water, cameras, passport, i-pods etc.

Takuhaibin - Japan's takuhaibin service is a convenient and reliable way to transfer luggage from one location to another throughout the country. Pick-up/drop-off/delivery dates and times can be easily scheduled (usually overnight) and costs are moderate. Service can be arranged at most hotels and airports. Using Takuhaibin to send your luggage between hotels, or from hotel to airport, is a great way to travel light and avoid hauling large bags on crowded trains or up and down stairs - just be sure to pack an overnight bag with everything you'll need until you're reunited with your luggage the following day.

What should I pack for this trip?

- Passport (with photocopies)
- Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- Cash and debit card (see personal spending money)
- G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier
- Day pack for daily personal items
- Small overnight bag (for convenience while using Takuhaabin service – see “What to Take” for details)
- Sunblock/Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent
- Toiletries (soap and shampoo are provided in all accommodation)
- Sport sandals or other easy to slip on/off shoes (for temple visits)
- Money belt
- Shirts/T-shirts
- Camera
- Reading/writing material
- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, aspirin, band aids, anti-histamine, imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, extra prescription drugs you may be taking).
- Clothes that cover knees and shoulders (long pants/sarong)
- Rehydration powder
- Long pants/jeans
- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Note: During the colder months (Oct-Apr) the mountains can be very cold, so please make sure you pack warm clothes.

Mt. Fuji climb (if applicable):

- Headlamp or flashlight
- Windproof rain jacket
- Hat
- Fleece jacket or warm layer
- Thermal base layer
- Gloves
- Windproof rain pants
- Hiking boots

Where can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels but this is very expensive. Your leader can show you self service coin laundries in larger cities. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

Travel in Japan is easy, clean, fast and efficient, however please be aware that English is still not widely spoken, however a lot of patience, a sense of humour and a respect for the local culture goes a long way in any Asian country and will greatly enrich your experience.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com. As of April 2011 the exchange rate for JAPAN was 1 USD = 80 (Japanese Yen).

Every Post Office and 7-11 Convenience store has an ATM machine that accepts Visa, Mastercard and Debit Cards. At times, Maestro/Master Card/Cirrus have been problematic at these machines, so please bring a back-up card.

Credit Cards should not be relied upon for purchases as they are not widely accepted, except in some restaurants and department stores. Money can be exchanged at Post Offices and some banks and hotels in major cities, however it can be a very slow process.

What emergency funds do I need access to on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Departure Tax is included in all International and Domestic tickets.

What are the tipping guidelines for this trip?

Tipping for service is not practiced in Japan. Leaving money at restaurants, in taxis etc will simply cause confusion.

Tipping within the travel industry is standard to recognize the guide for a great experience. Our CEOs work hard to make your trip special. If you're happy with their service, a tip of \$5-\$7 per day is a great way to say thanks, though the final amount is completely up to you.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Kanazawa

- Kanazawa Castle Visit (Free-320JPY per person)
- Nagamachi Samurai District Walk
- 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (450-1200JPY per person)
- Myoryuji Ninja Temple Visit (1200JPY per person)
- Omicho Market Tour

Miyajima

- Mt. Misen Visit (Free-2000JPY per person)

Kyoto

- Zen Gardens of Ryōan-ji (600JPY per person)
- Daisen-in Zen Rock Garden Visit (500JPY per person)
- Gion Walk (Free)

Tokyo

- Ueno Park Visit (Free)
- Ginza Shopping (Free)
- Meiji Shrine (Meiji Jingū) Visit (Free-1000JPY per person)
- Imperial Palace East Gardens Walk (Free)

Asakusa

- Sensō-ji Temple Visit (Free)

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical information pertaining to the country you are travelling to well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as a full supply of any personal medical requirements. Always carry your prescription medication in original packaging with your doctor's prescription and ensure your medication is legal in Japan. In Asia, you will not find the same drugs as you get at home. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities. Also note that for legal reasons our Leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if, in the reasonable opinion of the CEO, they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Are there any specific safety considerations for this itinerary?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

What are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples, mosques or other holy sites.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Special Comments

14 day Japan Rail Pass now included in the price of the trip.

What are the age restrictions for this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.