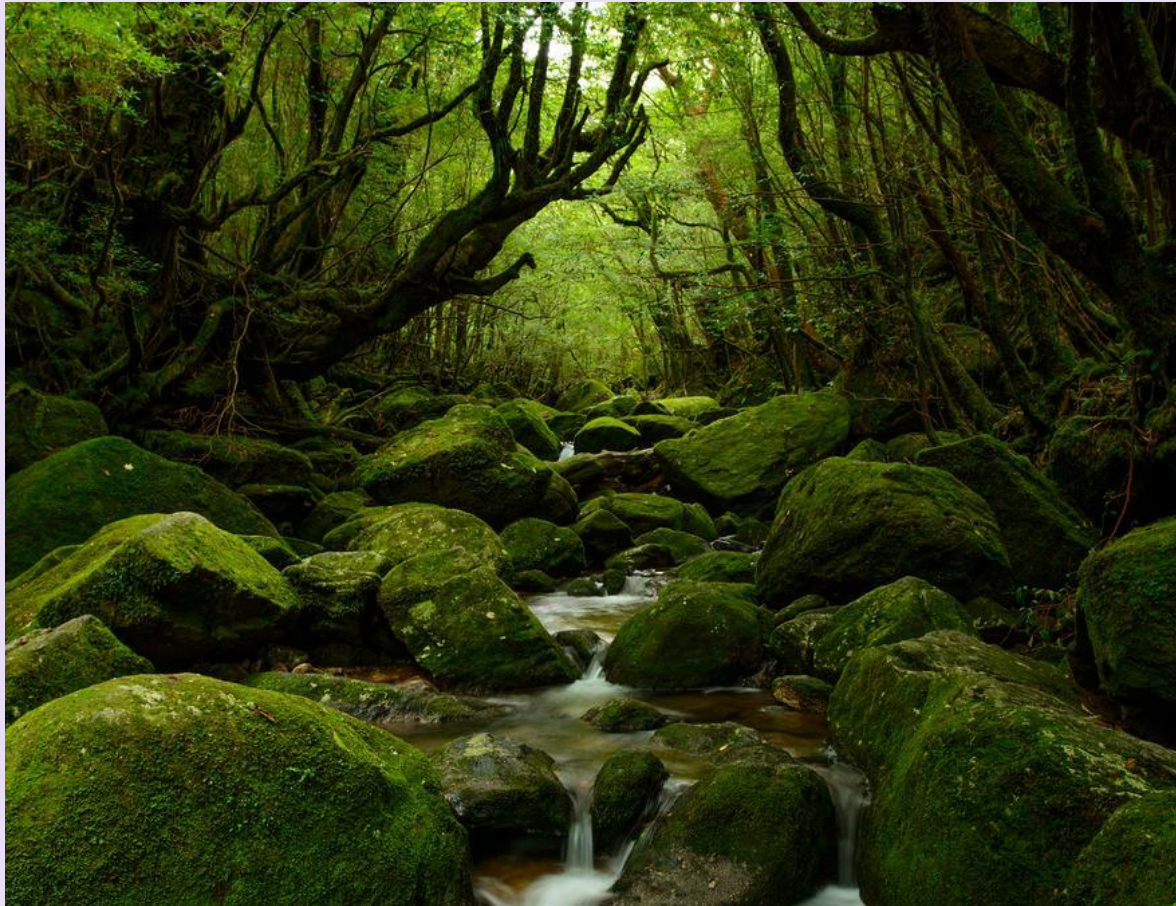


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x

Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Explore Southern Japan" (AJSK), [but here are some similar trips](#).



Explore Southern Japan

11 days, Osaka to Kyoto

Trip code AJSK

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Kyoto

- Full day trip to Naoshima Art Island
- CEO-led orientation walk of Naoshima port
- Benesse House Museum visit (Naoshima)
- CEO-led Peace Park visit with museum entrance (Nagasaki)
- Shiratani Unsuikyo hiking excursion (Yakushima)
- Japan Rail (JR) Pass (7 days)
- 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, 2018 and onwards

Itinerary



Itinerary Notes

Luggage size restriction –
Effective from May 2020
onwards

All G Adventures tours in Japan
use the world-famous
Shinkansen bullet trains, which
have a restriction on maximum
luggage size. Your luggage
must be less than 160cm in
total. 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, 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.

Day 1

Osaka

Arrive at any time.

We highly recommend booking pre-accommodation to fully experience this lively city.



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.

Day 2

Osaka to Okayama

Enjoy a free morning to explore energetic Osaka, one of the nation's culinary centres. In the afternoon, travel to Okayama.

Osaka has heaps to offer including Osaka Castle Park, Shinsaibashi shopping street and Dotombori Bridge. Be sure to try "takoyaki" the city's famous octopus snack. Osaka is a unique culinary destination – opt for a meal of "kushikatsu".

In the afternoon, travel to Okayama, known around Japan as the "The Land Of Sunshine". Spend free time wandering through gardens, exploring castles, and tasting the outstanding food of this charming city.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Osaka

Check out lively Namba and be sure to stop for a photo on the Dotombori Bridge.

Bullet Train

Osaka - Okayama

1h-2h

185km

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

Free Time

Okayama

Discover the city known as "The Land Of Sunshine", and be sure to sample some local dishes.



Optional Activities - Day 2

Korakuen Garden Visit

Okayama

400JPY

Get out and explore this stunning garden, ranked one of the top three in Japan. With a rice field and tea plantation, expansive lawns, ponds, teahouses and Edo period buildings, there's lots to see here in every season.

Okayama Castle

Okayama

300-800JPY

Nicknamed “Crow Castle” due to its black exterior, Okayama Castle sits across the river from the Korakuen Garden. Built in 1597, after 8 years of construction, the original castle was destroyed after World War II and reconstructed in 1966.

Spend the day exploring Naoshima, a picturesque island dotted with impressive contemporary art museums and installations. After a brief orientation walk, enjoy free time to discover this unique island at leisure. In the evening, return back to Okayama.



Today's Activities

Train

Okayama - Uno

1h-1h30m

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

Ferry

Uno-kō - Miyanoura-kō

30m

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

Naoshima Orientation Walk

Naoshima

With your CEO, get a feel for the island that has transformed into a cradle of modern and contemporary art. Snap a photo of Yayoi Kusama's iconic red pumpkin before heading off to explore the modern art and beautiful architecture of the Benesse House Museum.

Benesse Art Site

Naoshima

Designed by architect Ando Tadao, this famous museum displays artwork inspired by the natural surroundings of Naoshima. Be sure not to miss the many art pieces found along the shore and cliffs below the museum.

Free Time

Naoshima

Don't waste a minute— start exploring.

Ferry

Miyanoura-kō - Uno-kō

30m

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

Train

Uno - Okayama

1h-1h30m

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

Travel southwest to the island of Kyushu. After arriving in the city of Nagasaki, explore with some free time. Don't miss out on the delicious local seafood!

Today's Activities

Bullet Train

Okayama - Shin-Tosu

2h

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

Train

Shin-Tosu - Nagasaki

1h30m-2h

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

Free Time

Nagasaki

Get out and explore this historic city.

Optional Activities - Day 4

Ōura Catholic Church

Nagasaki

Learn about the about the history of Christianity in Japan as you wander through Oura Cathedral, also known as "The Church of 26 Martyrs". Dedicated to the 26 Christians executed for their religious beliefs in 1597, this is the oldest standing Christian church in Japan and one of 14 locations designated a World Heritage site.

Glover Garden

Nagasaki

Enjoy the gorgeous views of Nagasaki Port from Glover Garden, named after Scottish merchant, Thomas Glover. A prominent figure in the modernization of Japan, Glover played a key role in the settlement of Nagasaki. Take time to wander through the former Glover House, the oldest Western-style wooden building in Japan.

Hashima Island

Nagasaki

Wander around the post apocalyptic landscape of this spooky island which is now a ghost town.

Commonly known as Gunkanjima (Battleship Island) due to its appearance, this was once the most densely populated place on earth.

Visit Nagasaki's Peace Park with your CEO and learn more about the historic events of 1945. Explore more of this port city with some free time.



Today's Activities

Nagasaki Peace Park & Atomic Bomb Museum Visit

Nagasaki

Standing as an international symbol of peace, the Nagasaki Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum, commemorates the bombing of the city on August 9, 1945. Many of the statues and monuments, donated from countries all over the world, are in support of the city's prayer for peace, and the vow that such atrocities will never occur again.



Optional Activities - Day 5

Ōura Catholic Church

Nagasaki

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Nagasaki

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Day 6

Nagasaki to Yakushima

Today is a long travel day – via train and ferry – to the southernmost tip of Kyushu island and beyond! After arriving on Yakushima, settle in and get some rest for tomorrow's excursion.



Today's Activities

Bullet Train

Nagasaki – Shin-Tosu

1h30m-2h

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

Bullet Train

Shin-Tosu – Kagoshima

1h30m-2h

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

Ferry

Kagoshima Kō – Yakushima

2h

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

Day 7

Yakushima

Experience the magic of Yakushima with a hike through the island's mossy ancient forest. This lush subtropical island is home to impressive cedar trees, several of which are thousands of years old.



Today's Activities

Shiratani Unsuikyo Hike

Yakushima

4h-5h

Put on your hiking shoes and set off on a journey through a real-life enchanted forest, home to some of the oldest cedar trees on the planet. With these awe-inspiring views, it's no wonder this mystical place was the inspiration behind Hayao Miyazaki's famous animated film "Princess Mononoke".

Day 8

Yakushima

Enjoy free day on beautiful Yakushima. Go for a hike, check out the beach, or relax at an oceanside onsen.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Yakushima

Use free time to enjoy the area. Opt to hike, relax or spend some time on the beach.



Optional Activities - Day 8

Jōmon Sugi Hike

Yakushima

9h-10h

Set off early to hike to Japan's oldest tree, Jomonsugi, which is thought to be 2000-7200 years old. Discovered hundreds of years ago, it escaped logging due to its unique shape, and is now protected as part of the national park. Along the trail there are other famous trees to see, including the Meotosugi, a pair of trees that resemble a husband and wife embracing, and the great king cedar, Daiosugi, which is one of the largest trees on the island.

Today is a busy travel day. Start with a boat ride to Kagoshima before boarding an overnight ferry bound for Osaka. The ferry features a restaurant, onsen spa, and shop. Settle in and enjoy this unique journey across Japan's Inland Sea.

Please note the overnight ferry is multi-share accommodation.



Today's Activities

Ferry

Yakushima - Kagoshima Kō

2h-2h30m

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

Shuttle

Kagoshima Kō - Shibushi-kō

2h-2h30m

Grab a seat and enjoy the ride.

Ferry

Shibushi-kō - Osaka

14h-15h

Boarding an overnight ferry for your journey across Japan's Inland Sea.

Day 10

Osaka/Kyoto

Arrive at the port in the morning and continue to historic Kyoto. Enjoy a free day to explore this cultural hub. Opt for a final meal with the group.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Train

Osaka - Kyoto

1h30m-2h

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



Optional Activities - Day 10

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.

Zen Gardens of Ryōan-ji

Kyoto

500JPY

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.

Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion Visit

Kyoto

500JPY

Explore Kinkaku-ji or the Golden Pavilion, named for the temple's top two floors that are covered in gold leaf. The temple is surrounded by trees and sits on a reflective pond, making this must-see in Kyoto a perfect place for photos. While the temple can be busy, there are gardens around the area to explore once you've had enough of the view.

Depart at any time.

We highly recommend booking post-accommodation to fully experience this historic city.

For travellers flying out of Kansai International Airport (KIX), please find the public transit options below (please note that taxis can become quite expensive in the late hours)

- 1) By train - departing from Kyoto station, the limited express "Haruka" Train goes directly to the airport. The last train to the airport leaves Kyoto station at 20:30.
- 2) By bus - departing from Kyoto station, with several stops along the way. The last bus to the airport leaves Kyoto station at 22:10.

Timetable Reference: <http://www.hyperdia.com>

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Kyoto
- Full day trip to Naoshima Art Island
- CEO-led orientation walk of Naoshima port
- Benesse House Museum visit (Naoshima)
- CEO-led Peace Park visit with museum entrance (Nagasaki)
- Shiratani Unsuikyo hiking excursion (Yakushima)
- Japan Rail (JR) Pass (7 days)
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Soak in contemporary art at Naoshima Island's museums, Hike through an ancient moss forest, Learn about the historic events of Nagasaki, Explore the cultural hub of Kyoto.

Itinerary Notes

Luggage size restriction - Effective from May 2020 onwards

All G Adventures tours in Japan use the world-famous Shinkansen bullet trains, which have a restriction on maximum luggage size. Your luggage must be less than 160cm in total. 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, in addition to your carry-on sized luggage. Please see "What to take" under Tour details for more information.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Soak in contemporary art at Naoshima Island's museums, Hike through an ancient moss forest, Learn about the historic events of Nagasaki, Explore the cultural hub of Kyoto.

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

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 view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

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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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.

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

1. 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

How large will the group be?

Max 15, avg 12.

What meals are included in this trip?

2 breakfasts

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?

Train, ferry, speedboat, public bus, hiking, walking.

What transportation will we take on this trip?

Japan's reliable public transportation is the best option for both the environment and for experiencing Japan like a local! We will ride several forms of transportation throughout the country, from Shinkansen bullet trains, to subways, funiculars, local trains, and buses. Note that often times we will have to carry our luggage from one mode of transport to another, so please consider this whilst packing.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe solo 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 solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotel/guesthouses (9 nts), overnight ferry (1nt, multi-share).

What kind of accommodation can I expect 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.

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 is the joining hotel?

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

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. To get from Kansai Intl Airport (KIX) to our commonly used joining hotels:

First, get some cash.

After passing through the customs, stop by a bank counter or an ATM machine on the first floor to get some Japanese Yen. This may be your last chance to exchange cash easily in Japan as only certain banks do currency exchange.

To get to the IBIS Styles Osaka:

From Kansai Airport, you can take a train called Nankai Airport Express for Namba, and it takes 47 minutes and train ticket costs 920JPY.

Once you are Namba, you can either take a taxi for 5mins, or walk 15mins from exit14.

From Kansai Intl Airport (KIX) to Namba:

First, get some cash.

After passing through the customs, stop by a bank counter or an ATM machine on the first floor to get some Japanese Yen. This may be your last chance to exchange cash easily in Japan as only certain banks do currency exchange.

Airport Limousine Bus

Buses run twice hourly to the Namba OCAT bus station near your hotel. Journey time is 48 minutes and costs 1050 Yen.

The bus departs from Stop 11 at the International Arrival Lobby on the first floor of the airport. Tickets for buses can be purchased from vending machines located near the bus stops.

http://www.kate.co.jp/pc/e_time_table/e_ocat.html

See the instructions below about getting to the hotel from Namba station.

Nankai Line Train

The Nankai Line runs extremely regular trains to Namba station.

1. Follow the sign "Railways" to the second floor, exit the terminal building, then cross the pedestrian bridge outside to walk into Kansai Airport Station.
2. Go to Nankai Railways counters #1-3 under the orange sign "Ltd. Exp. Rapi:t Reservation Tickets and General Tickets" on your left.
3. Purchase a ticket for the next Rapi:t (pronounced 'rapeet') or Airport Express to Namba. The ticket costs 1390Yen for Rapi:t (44min) or 890Yen for Airport Express (38min).
4. Go through a gate under the orange sign, which says "Nankai" by inserting the ticket into the gate. Retrieve the ticket, which will be returned to you at the other side of the gate. You will need it when leaving the Railway.
5. Go down to a platform, and get on the train. The seats are reserved on the Rapi:t and non reserved on the Airport Express. The departure time, car number and the seat number are written on the ticket.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time and your transfer times back to the

airport the next day. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case 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.

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 3-6659-9074 (2nd contact +81 80 6779 1851)

From within Japan: 1st contact +81 3-6659-9074 (2nd contact +81 80 6779 1851)

After office hours emergency number

Primary phone: +81 80 6779 1851 (from within Japan: 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

Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

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 are capable of walking up and down the stairs with your luggage without any assistance.

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. A large bag will be an inconvenience to you and will slow you down!

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 be on my packing list?

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.) Note: Hand sanitizer is a rare commodity in Japan, so it is best to bring this with you.

When 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](#)

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.

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.

How much emergency money should I bring 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 flight tickets.

Should I be tipping on my trip?

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

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is highly appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$5 USD per person, per day can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Okayama

- Korakuen Garden Visit (400JPY per person)
- Okayama Castle (300-800JPY per person)

Nagasaki

- Ōura Catholic Church
- Glover Garden
- Hashima Island

Yakushima

- Jōmon Sugi Hike

Kyoto

- Gion Walk (Free)
- Zen Gardens of Ryōan-ji (500JPY per person)
- Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion Visit (500JPY per person)

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

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 group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (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 and 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 judgement 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.

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. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

What are the trip specific safety considerations?

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 rules should I know before joining this trip?

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 people in the sex trade 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 utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

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 leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. 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 countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples 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.

How old must I be to join 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.