



Cultural Treasures of **JAPAN**

DEPARTS: MONDAY 27TH MARCH 2023



FREE CALL: 1800 033 068



# Cultural Treasures of JAPAN

## Departs: March 2023

\$8,600 per person, based on Twin Share (Flights NOT included)  
\$2,016 Single Supplement

**13 Days • 19 Meals:** 12 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** *Tokyo, Asakusa Sensoji Shrine, Ginza, Tea Ceremony, Hakone, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, Kaiseki Dinner*

### Day 1: Monday, March 27, 2023 Tokyo, Japan - Tour Begins

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept. **Accommodation: (3 Night Stay) Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, Tokyo.**

### Day 2: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Tokyo (B,D)

Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge and Sakurada Gate, the well-known symbols of the Imperial Palace. Walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Later, amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Tonight, join your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 Tokyo (B)

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colourful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area.

### Day 4: Thursday, March 30, 2023 Tokyo – Hakone (B,D)

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view\* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone.

**Accommodation: (Overnight Stay) Odyakyu Hotel de Yama, Hakone.**

### Day 5: Friday, March 31, 2023 Hakone - Matsumoto – Takayama (B,L,D)

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner. **Accommodation: (2 Night Stay) Takayama Green Hotel, Takayama.**

### Day 6: Saturday, April 1, 2023 Takayama (B)

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own.

### Day 7: Sunday, April 2, 2023 Takayama - Shirakawa-go – Kanazawa (B,D)

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the HigashiTea district. **Accommodation: (2 Night Stay) Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa.**



### Day 8: Monday, April 3, 2023 Kanazawa (B)

More than 25 acres of absolute beauty await you today at *Kenroku-En* – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture.

### Day 9: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Kanazawa – Kyoto (B,L)

Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class and master the art of sushi making. This afternoon, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. **Accommodation (4 Night Stay) Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto.**

### Day 10: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima – Kyoto (B)

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train.

**Experience It! Hiroshima:** A modern Japanese city, Hiroshima is most known for being one of two cities hit with an atomic bomb, helping to end the Second World War. Though reclaimed as a cosmopolitan center, the city is never far from its past; amongst the electric neon of its bustling streets, Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park is a historical time capsule right in the city center that's both a dedication to the victims of the bombing and to world peace. The park's main site, the A-Bomb Dome, is the mark of the ruined remains of the Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. The nearby Peace Memorial Museum gives you the opportunity to learn about life in Hiroshima before, during, and after WWII. For those interested in world history, Hiroshima is a must-see.

### Day 11: Thursday, April 6, 2023 Kyoto (B)

This morning, explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kōbōri Enshū, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands-on lesson.

### Day 12: Friday, April 7, 2023 Kyoto (B,D)

Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special *kaiseki* farewell dinner and geisha show.

### Day 13: Saturday, April 8, 2023 Kyoto - Tour Ends (B)

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

**A deposit of \$500 per person (Land Only)** is required on booking to confirm your reservation. (Non-Refundable)

**Balance is due by 11<sup>th</sup> Jan '23.** Full payment is required if booking after the listed date

**FREE PASSENGER PICKUP & RETURN SERVICE:** For the convenience of all our passengers Cardwell's Coach Travel provide Free Passenger Pickup & Return Service from most major Towns in North, North-East, Central Victoria & Southern NSW. (For Example: Albury, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Seymour, Bendigo, Finley, Kerang, Echuca, Deniliquin, Yarrawonga, Corowa, and towns within these areas).

For Passenger's who live outside these areas Cardwell's provide Overnight accommodation in Numurkah and 'Free lock up car storage' at our Numurkah depot.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Cost of passport, Visa (Australian Passport holders will not need a Visa), tipping and Gratuities. Flights

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** To cover the costs involved the following cancellation fees apply. The \$500 deposit is un-refundable additional payment or final payments after 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 will be un-refundable, we highly recommend travel insurance so if anything, unforeseen happened there could be a provision to get your money back.

**FARES & ITINERARIES:** Cardwell's Coach Travel costs published & outlined in the brochure are frozen; errors or printing mistakes are subject to correction. However, policy or itinerary changes by rail/air/sea/land/tour operators or changes in Government duties or taxes are outside the control of Cardwell's Coach Travel. Air fares and other discount travel arrangements may be subject to availability of seats/berths, as determined by transport companies. Alternative hotels may be used. No increases apply once full fare is paid. The Tour duration includes the day of departure and the day of return. Fares shown make no allowance for extra accommodation or transfers necessitated by en-route stop-overs caused by rail/air/boat schedules, strikes or other reasons. Your Travel Agent will forward deposits and other payments to us on your behalf. Receipt of deposits and also subsequent payments by the travel agent does not constitute receipts of those monies by us. There is no liability on our part in respect of any monies paid to your Travel Agent unless and until we notify you (by way of Booking Confirmation Advice or Payment Receipt Advice) that monies have been received by us. Cardwell's Coach Travel reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking or to refuse to carry any passenger where payment has not been received by Cardwell's Coach Travel and has the right to accept wait listed passengers in place of those failing to finalise within the prescribed time.

**CONTINGENCY:** In the event of circumstances affecting the progress of any tour arrangements (including but not limited to vehicle breakdowns and missed flight connections) Cardwell's Coach Travel will not be responsible for any accommodation costs and will not be liable for any airfares or repatriation costs whatsoever. All efforts will be made to rectify the situation expediently. Cardwell's Coach Travel reserve the right to alter the itinerary in order to make up any time lost due to any unforeseen circumstances.

**ELIGIBILITY:** No passenger will be permitted to embark or continue on the tour while their mental or physical condition is, in the opinion of CARDWELLS' COACH TRAVEL, such as to render them incapable of caring for themselves, or they become objectionable to other passengers. However, any person/s who cannot travel independently or needs special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:** Itineraries, tours and cruises are subject to alteration with or without notice and intended as a guide only. Alterations may come about due to road or weather conditions, strikes, non-performance by a supplier or any other reasons Cardwell's Coach Travel act in your best interest in any such changes.

**ARBITRATION:** The contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of Victoria, Australia. Should the unlikely situation arise that a customer has a complaint about any aspect of a tour, the complaint should be reported immediately to the local Tour Guide (where possible), or to the management of the supplier (eg: hotel, tour operator, etc), in order to be given the opportunity to immediately rectify the problem. If a satisfactory outcome is not forthcoming all complaints must be in writing and received by Cardwell's Coach Travel, providing full details of the problem and those previously contacted in the resolution process. Cardwell's Coach Travel offers no guarantee of material or financial compensation in any instance.

**MINIMUM NUMBERS/ HOSTESS:** This tour is being sold as a FIT (Free Independent Traveller) package. Which means Cardwells still offer the pickup from most major towns. But a Tour Escort/Hostess would join you when you arrive in Japan. For this purpose, flights are not included but can be purchased when booking through Cardwells.

**LUGGAGE:** One medium suitcase per person, not exceeding 20kg (42lbs) and one carry bag for inside the coach. Over limit luggage cannot be carried. International flights as per airline allowances.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We can arrange for passengers to take out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise (including cancellation fees, medical & curtailment expenses, loss of luggage, early departure from tour due to death or illness etc.) These can be extremely expensive. Ask your travel agent for details at time of booking.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** If by any means of any event of force majeure (which shall include terrorism, pandemic or any cause or event outside our control) we shall be delayed in or prevented from performing our obligations, then such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed a breach or entitle damages claim. Our obligations shall be suspended whilst such event of force majeure continues.

**COVID-19:** Because the COVID situation is forever changing. We highly recommend taking out Travel Insurance with COVID-19 cover. Cardwell's offer travel insurance policies with COVID-19 cover (please check policy terms and conditions for full details).

**The overall activity level:** a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transport (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Each guest is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal doctor for specific details on the destinations you are travelling to and from.

This tour provides authentic dining experiences. Vegan, vegetarian, and even gluten-free diets are uncommon in Japan and not widely catered to. If you have any dietary restrictions, please notify us at time of booking so we can accommodate you as best as possible.

Flights arrive into Tokyo and depart from Osaka.

Our air passengers will be departing from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport (depending upon your flight schedule). All transfers will depart from the Kyoto hotel for either Kansai Airport or Itami Airport.

\*Is weather dependant



Partnered with



Cardwells Coach & International Travel  
35 McDonald Street, Numurkah, Vic. 3636  
Phone 03 58621833  
www.cardwells.com.au