

# JAPAN 11 DAY TOUR – CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME March 27 to April 6, 2025

## Day One:

Today our limousine service will pick us up from our homes and transfer us to Pearson International Airport where we'll board our flight to Tokyo. Relax on your overnight flight to Tokyo.

## Day 2: Tokyo

Upon arrival at Tokyo airport, you will meet our representative with the name board at the airport exit. Private transfer to hotel. After hotel check-in, the rest of the day is at leisure on your own.

## Day 3: Tokyo

Visit Meiji Shrine in the morning, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Your next stop today is Tokyo Metro to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city. Lunch on your own at Shinjuku Golden Street, where you could easily find local cuisines and enjoying on of Tokyo's most busy & Lively area. Later, stroll through the Sensoji Temple(Asakusa Kannon Temple), one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. Then walk along the famous 820-ft long Nakamise shopping street where you can explore the lines of stalls selling different Japanese-styled goods and souvenirs. You may also choose the optional Kimono Rental (CAD\$85) and explore great photo opportunities along the ancient street in Japan's beautiful national dress. This evening we'll go out for a Kaiseki dinner. Kaiseki is a traditional Japanese multi-course meal. It generally consists of a sequence of light dishes and is often served at high-class Japanese restaurants. (B, D)



## Day 4: Tokyo

After breakfast today we'll board our coach and travel to Kamakura, a picturesque seaside city nestled in forested hills on Sagami Bay renowned for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and rich history. Next we continue on to Yokohama, Japan's second largest city. We visit Sankeien garden and the Red Brick Warehouse, where early-20th century custom buildings now house stylish shops, and stroll in waterside Yamashita Park and China town. **(B)** 

## Day 5: Tokyo - Mt. Fuji

Today, visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji. Oshino Hakkai, known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, and Sengenjinja Shrine. Enjoy the picturesque view of Mount Fuji from a distance onboard the cruise on Lake Kawaguchi, a crater lake famous for its views of the famous peak. Afterwards, Finish the day with a true cultural experience in our hot spring hotel. Dress in Yukata bath robes and enjoy a traditional dinner. (**B**, **D**)

## Day 6: Mt. Fuji - Matsumoto

This morning, transfer to Matsumoto. Today we will visit the Matsumoto castle, one of the most beautiful and complete original castles in Japan. Known as the "Crow Castle" due to its black exterior, it is a flatland castle (hirajiro), built on a plain rather than a hill or mountain. Afterwards, visit Daiowasabi Farm, one of the largest wasabi farms in the country, and situated in the rural area of Azumino, known for its clear spring water from the Northern Alps, which is ideal for wasabi cultivation. Overnight in Matsumoto. **(B)** 



#### Day 7: Matsumoto - Takayama - Shirakawago - Nagoya

This morning, transfer to Takayama. Visit the morning market and old town which has been beautifully preserved with many buildings and whole streets of houses dating from the Edo Period (1603-1868), when the city thrived as a wealthy merchant town. Visit Shirakawago village is declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1995, they are famous for their traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. Continue our trip to Nagoya and overnight in Nagoya. **(B)** 

## Day 8: Nagoya – Kyoto – Osaka

This morning, visit Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota which started out as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots. Then Travel to Kyoto, Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. Countless temples, shrines, and other historically priceless structures survive in the city today. Visit Nishiki market and experience local life. Rich with history and tradition, the market is renowned as the place to obtain many of Kyoto's famous foods and goods. Visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), World Cultural Heritage featuring a shining golden pavilion and a pond-centered garden. Visit the shining Kinkaku with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Afterwards, take the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Osaka. (B)



## Day 9: Osaka - Nara - Osaka

This morning, you will move to Nara, remains full of iconic sites. Then see Todai-ji Temple, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples, constructed in the 8th century. In its huge area houses various national treasures of Japan. Step foot in the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall), housing the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through Nara Park, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling back to Osaka. Visit the Osaka Castle, which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century, before being dropped off at Donburi, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture. Overnight in Osaka. **(B)** 

#### Day 10: Osaka

Start your Kansai Culture Day Tour. Which consist of visiting Higashi Hongan-ji, which is a religious complex of the Pure Land (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhism. Its monumental architecture renowned for being sheltered by the largest wooden roof in the world. Here we can also take a great picture of Kyoto tower. Then visit the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a mesmerizing grove of thousands of tall bamboo plants. A paved walkway runs through the middle of both sections, forming the famous "Bamboo Alley," one of Kyoto's most photographed sights. Japanese traditional lunch will be included at a local Japanese restaurant. After that, we will visit one of the most sacred and impressive destinations – Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine and walk through the famous vermilion Torii Gates, the most picturesque location on tour. In the afternoon, you will get a chance to experience a unique Tea ceremony and Wakashi making, which will make your travel memorable. You will make Japanese sweets called nerikiri perfect for the tea ceremony and ideal for taking back home as a souvenir. Then return to your comfortable vehicle for the relaxing journey back to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure on your own. (B, L)

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## Day 11: Osaka - Toronto

Free at leisure in the morning. This afternoon we transfer to the airport to board our back to Canada. Upon arrival in Toronto we'll take our limousine service back to our homes!

(B)

WELCOME HOME! B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

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