

# 11 Day Japan's Golden Route with Hiroshima

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<b>Return Flights Included</b>	<b>Travel by Shinkansen bullet train</b>	<b>7 Day Change Of Mind</b>
<b>Fully Escorted by local English speaking guide</b>		

## Day by Day Itinerary

Osaka, Hiroshima, Nara, Kyoto, Mt. Fuji, Tokyo

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the majestic **Himeji Castle**, one of Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Known as the "White Heron Castle," its striking white exterior and well-preserved structure provide a glimpse into Japan's feudal past.
- Visit the famous **Itsukushima Shrine**, renowned for its floating torii gate that appears to hover over the sea at high tide. This spiritual site is a stunning example of Japanese architecture blending harmoniously with nature.
- Explore **Nara Deer Park**, home to hundreds of freely roaming deer considered sacred messengers of the gods. Interact with these gentle creatures as you stroll through the park and visit the historic **Todaiji Temple**.
- Immerse yourself in the surreal beauty of the **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest**. Walking through the towering bamboo stalks, you'll find a serene escape as the sounds of the rustling leaves transport you to a world of tranquility.
- Enjoy a scenic cruise on **Lake Ashi**, formed in the caldera of an ancient volcano. The lake offers picturesque views of the surrounding mountains, including the iconic **Mt. Fuji**, making it a memorable experience in the heart of nature.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: - Osaka, Japan

Welcome to Osaka, the vibrant gateway to Japan!

Upon arrival at Kansai International Airport, clear customs and immigration before being transferred to your accommodation.

Settle in and take some time to relax or start exploring the lively streets of Osaka, known for its modern architecture, delicious street food, and rich cultural history.

**Meals:** on plane

**Accommodation:** Stargate Hotel Kansai 4\* or similar

**Please note:**

*If purchasing the land only option, please be advised that transfers are not included. You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel.*

*Depending on the time of your departure flight, the start date of your tour may be the day prior.*

### Day 2: Osaka - Himeji - Hiroshima

Start your day with a delicious breakfast before embarking on a journey to Hiroshima. On the way, stop in Himeji to visit the iconic Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its elegant white facade and complex architecture. Known as the "White Heron Castle," it stands as a symbol of Japan's feudal era.

Continue to Hiroshima, a city that rose from the ashes after the atomic bombing on August 6, 1945. Today, Hiroshima is a symbol of peace and resilience.

Spend your evening reflecting on history as you explore the city's poignant memorials.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima 4\* or similar

### **Day 3: Hiroshima**

Start your day with a visit to the picturesque island of Miyajima, home to the famous Itsukushima Shrine. This iconic site is best known for its torii gate, which appears to float on water during high tide, offering one of the most stunning views in Japan. Explore the shrine complex, including its noh theatre stage and prayer halls, all beautifully built over the sea.

In the afternoon, return to Hiroshima to visit the Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Museum. These sites are dedicated to the memory of the victims of World War II and serve as powerful reminders of the importance of peace.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima 4\* or similar

### **Day 4: Hiroshima - Osaka**

After bidding farewell to Hiroshima, embark on a scenic journey along the coastal road of the Seto Inland Sea. Your first stop is Kurashiki, a city known for its well-preserved Edo-period canal area. Wander through the charming streets lined with historic white-walled storehouses, and soak in the atmosphere of this beautiful water city.

Next, visit Kobe, a city celebrated for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, delicious Kobe beef, and scenic waterfront. Explore Kobe's vibrant neighbourhoods before continuing your journey back to Osaka.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel it Osaka Shinmachi 4\* or similar

### **Day 5: Osaka - Nara - Kyoto**

Today, embark on a day trip to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital. Begin with a visit to Todaiji Temple, home to the world's largest bronze Buddha statue. Stroll through Nara Deer Park, where you can interact with the friendly deer that roam freely, considered sacred messengers in Shinto belief.

In the afternoon, travel to Kyoto, a city that beautifully preserves Japan's ancient culture. Wander across the Togetsu Bridge in the Arashiyama District, a scenic area known for its natural beauty and historic significance. End your day with a serene walk through the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, where the towering bamboo stalks create an ethereal and peaceful atmosphere.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Noku Kyoto 4\* or similar

### **Day 6: Kyoto - Mt. Fuji**

Begin your day with a visit to Nijo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that once served as the residence of the Tokugawa shoguns. Marvel at the castle's intricate architecture and historical significance. Next, visit the Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), a Zen temple covered in gold leaf, set amidst a serene pond and beautiful gardens.

After lunch, board the world-famous Shinkansen bullet train for a thrilling journey to Mt. Fuji. Watch as the Japanese countryside whizzes by at incredible speeds, and prepare for the breathtaking sight of Mt. Fuji, Japan's tallest and most revered mountain.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sun Plaza Hotel Fuji Lake Yamanakako 4\* or similar

### **Day 7: Mt. Fuji**

Today, ascend to the fifth station of Mt. Fuji, located above the clouds. Take in the majestic views of the surrounding landscapes, and if the weather permits, capture unforgettable photos of the iconic peak. If conditions are not favourable, explore alternative sites such as Gotemba Peace Park or Hakone Checkpoint, both offering stunning views of Mt. Fuji.

In the afternoon, visit Oshino Hakkai, a serene village known for its eight crystal-clear ponds fed by the melting snow of Mt. Fuji. Revered for their purity, these ponds offer a tranquil retreat and a chance to experience Japan's natural beauty.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sun Plaza Hotel Fuji Lake Yamanakako 4\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Mt. Fuji - Tokyo**

Start your day with a cruise on Lake Ashi, a scenic lake formed in the caldera of an ancient volcano. Enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding mountains, including the iconic Mt. Fuji, as you sail across the tranquil waters.

Upon arriving in Tokyo, visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building's observation decks in Shinjuku. Standing at 243 metres high, these observatories offer panoramic views of the sprawling city, providing a perfect introduction to the bustling metropolis of Tokyo. The rest of the day is yours to explore at your leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Tokyo**

Spend your day exploring Tokyo, one of the world's most dynamic and diverse cities. Discover the latest in fashion, technology, and entertainment as you wander through neighborhoods like Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Ginza. Visit historic sites such as the Meiji Shrine, the Imperial Palace, and the iconic Tokyo Tower.

For food lovers, Tokyo offers an endless array of culinary delights. From sushi and ramen to tempura and yakitori, the city is a paradise for food enthusiasts. Be sure to explore the Tsukiji Fish Market for a taste of the freshest seafood, or visit one of the many traditional izakayas for an authentic dining experience.

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your departure. Take one last look at the vibrant city of Tokyo as you bid farewell to Japan

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Tokyo - Home**

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your departure. Take one last look at the vibrant city of Tokyo as you bid farewell to Japan

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **Day 11: - Home**

Arrive home today. We hope you enjoyed your holiday with AVG Travels.

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Return International Flights**
- Return airport transfers
- 9 nights premium twin share hotels
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches and 3 dinners
- Bullet train from Kyoto to Mount Fuji
- Dedicated Coach transportation throughout the tour
- Professional English speaking tour guide
- In-depth sightseeing as per the itinerary
- All monument entrance fees as per the itinerary

## **EXCLUSIONS**

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- Tipping (Non-compulsory)
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the program
- Trip delays or interruptions due to airline schedule changes
- Extra cost of missed tour due by flight delay or cancellation
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the program
- Travel insurance – Travel insurance is compulsory

- Optional touring and tour extensions
- Personal expenses

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Wednesday</b> 06 Nov 2024	<b>Saturday</b> 16 Nov 2024	AU\$5,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 20 Nov 2024	<b>Saturday</b> 30 Nov 2024	AU\$5,098		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Feb 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 08 Mar 2025	AU\$4,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12 Mar 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 22 Mar 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Mar 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 05 Apr 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 09 Apr 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 19 Apr 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 14 May 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 24 May 2025	AU\$4,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 11 Jun 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 21 Jun 2025	AU\$4,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 27 Aug 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 06 Sep 2025	AU\$4,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 10 Sep 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 20 Sep 2025	AU\$5,149		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 15 Oct 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 25 Oct 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 29 Oct 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 08 Nov 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12 Nov 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 22 Nov 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Nov 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 06 Dec 2025	AU\$5,449		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

## FINE PRINT

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes return flights from Sydney/Melbourne.

Flights from Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth attract a **\$400 surcharge**.

**Airline Selection:** We book the best available airlines for your journey, which may include a mix of full-service and low-cost carriers. Specific airline requests can be made at the time of purchase. This includes upgrades to your preferred carrier, premium economy or business class cabins or specific seats. Whilst we will try our best, not all requests can be confirmed.

**Flight Conditions:** Flights may not be direct and could involve a maximum of two transits.

**Ticketing Information:** Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Changes are subject to airline rules, airline change fees, and an Asia Vacations Group change fee of \$250 per person.

**Passenger Details:** Please ensure all traveller names are as per passports. This includes all middle names. Errors may incur a name change fee of \$150 plus airline charges, or require the purchase of a new ticket.

**Flight Schedule Changes:** Any changes or cancellations to airline schedules are outside our control. We recommend staying updated with airline schedules before departure. Additional expenses for extended transits or alternative arrangements are the traveller's responsibility.

**Internal Airfares:** Local flights included in your itinerary may utilise low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage is included; any additional baggage fees are payable at check-in.

**Booking Considerations:** If travelling with others on separate bookings, we may not be able to guarantee all flights are the same due to availability.

**Luggage and Fees:** You are responsible for your luggage at all times. Excess baggage fees, if incurred, are payable directly to the airline. All tickets will include 20 kg checked baggage per person, plus 7 kg of hand luggage. We recommend travelling with a max 20kg per person due to restrictions on internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Please note, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included.

**No-Show Policy:** Missing your flight may result in fees including a no-show fee, airline reissue fee, and possible new ticket purchase. Asia Vacations Group charges a \$250 admin fee for re-booking assistance.

**Price Adjustments:** Prices are final at the time of ticketing. Any subsequent changes may result in additional costs due to factors beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations or airline surcharges.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Land Only Packages

Transfers ARE NOT included for land only packages.

Please note that customers purchasing the land only option need to make their own way to the joining hotel and the airport at the end of the tour. Asia Vacation Group can assist with purchasing private transfers if choosing the land only option.

### Local Operator

AVG Travels have sourced a local, trusted partner to operate this tour. Our team has carefully vetted the itinerary and on-ground operations to ensure AVG Travels clients are in good hands.

### Physical Requirements

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach, and walking reasonable distances, typically around 2 km per day or more. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

### Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Please be advised that tipping for tour guides, drivers and bellmen are required and will be collected by your travel consultant 7 days before you depart. A gratuity of \$10 per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

### Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

**Single Supplement**

Single supplement of \$1800 in addition to the twin share price.

**Paired Solo Traveler**

Not available.

**Group size:**

min 2

max 45 travellers

**Triple Share**

Upon request

**Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with Nib Travel Insurance to offer you competitive rates for your travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply to arrange your policy.

**Visa & Passport information**

Please ensure that your passport has at least 6 months validity from your travel date. You should also have a minimum of 2 blank pages in your passport.

Australians are eligible for Japan's visa exemption scheme for short-stay tourism and business travel.

You don't need a visa if you're visiting for less than 90 days.

**Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

**Children**

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are priced at the same price as adults.

Japanese coach companies do not provide baby seats, we require customers to bring their own. We cannot guarantee the compatibility of these seats with the coach's seating arrangements.

We generally recommend that children be over 2 years old, as some itineraries may involve 2-3 hours or even longer of coach travel at a time, which can be challenging for younger children.

**Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

**ASIA VACATION GROUP**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339