

# 16 Day Discover Japan with Hiroshima

## AVG Travels – World Travel Experts!

### Local Knowledge. Vacations of a Lifetime.

Discover the world with AVG Travels, where our team of destination experts combines local knowledge with a passion for adventure to offer you the vacation of a lifetime. At AVG Travels, we not only provide an immersive travel experience, prioritise your comfort, safety, and enjoyment, but also showcase the beauty and cultural richness of stunning destinations.

Specialists in touring since 2015, AVG Travels, previously known as Asia Vacation Group, are proud to craft your itinerary and create memories that last a lifetime. Travel with confidence knowing your trip has been thoughtfully crafted by our experts with you personally in mind.

<b>Return Flights Included</b>	<b>Australian owned company</b>	<b>7 Day Change Of Mind</b>
<b>Fully Escorted by local English speaking guide</b>		

### Day by Day Itinerary

Osaka, Kurashiki, Kobe, Hiroshima, Okayama, Nara, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Matsumoto, Mt Fuji, Tokyo

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the majestic **Osaka Castle**, a symbol of Japan's rich history, with its impressive five-story tower and vibrant vermillion exterior. This 16th-century fortress offers stunning views and a deep dive into the cultural heritage of Osaka, making it a must-see attraction for any traveler.
- Explore the enchanting **Miyajima Island**, home to the iconic **Itsukushima Shrine**, renowned for its "floating" torii gate. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers visitors a unique experience as the shrine appears to float on water during high tide, creating a picturesque view.
- Discover the grandeur of **Himeji Castle**, Japan's most stunning and well-preserved samurai-era fortress. Often called the White Heron Castle due to its elegant, white exterior, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a true masterpiece of Japanese architecture.
- Visit Nara's **Todaiji Temple**, home to one of the world's largest bronze Buddha statues, and explore the surrounding **Nara Deer Park**. This historic temple and the 1,200 freely roaming deer in the park provide a serene and culturally rich experience, symbolizing Nara's deep spiritual heritage.
- Marvel at the exquisite **Kinkakuji Temple**, also known as the **Golden Pavilion**, in Kyoto. This Zen temple, covered in gold leaf, reflects beautifully in the surrounding pond, offering visitors a breathtaking view and an insight into Japan's artistic and architectural brilliance.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: - Osaka, Japan

Welcome to Osaka, Japan's third biggest city.

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

**Meals:** on plane

**Accommodation:** Odysis Suites Osaka Airport Hotel 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 - Kobe

After breakfast, begin your journey with a visit to the iconic Osaka Castle, a magnificent 16th-century fortress that stands as a symbol of Osaka's rich history. The castle's impressive five-story tower, adorned with a vibrant vermilion exterior and gold-leaf roof, offers stunning views and a deep dive into Japan's past.

Next, we head to Dotonbori, Osaka's bustling food and entertainment district. Immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere as you explore local street food stalls, unique shopping districts, and famous landmarks like the Glico Running Man sign—a symbol of the city's vibrant energy.

In the afternoon, travel to Kobe to visit the Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum. This poignant museum is dedicated to the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995, offering a moving tribute to the lives affected and the city's recovery.

In the evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner, providing the perfect opportunity to get to know your fellow travelers.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** SK Hotel Kobe Station 3\* or similar

## Day 3: Hiroshima

Start your day with a scenic drive to Hiroshima, a city known for its history and resilience.

En route, stop at Kurashiki, a charming town renowned for its beautifully preserved Edo-period merchant district. Stroll through its picturesque canals, admire the white-walled warehouses, and experience the nostalgic ambiance of a bygone era.

Continue to Hiroshima, where you will spend the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** HOTEL MYSTAYS Hiroshima Peace Park 3\* or similar

## Day 4: Hiroshima - Okayama

Begin your day with a ferry ride to \*Miyajima Island to visit the iconic Itsukushima Shrine. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famous for its "floating" torii gate, which appears to float on water during high tide, creating a mystical and serene atmosphere.

Return to Hiroshima to explore the Peace Memorial Park and Atomic Bomb Museum. This solemn site commemorates the victims of the atomic bomb and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of peace.

Afterwards, travel to Okayama for an overnight stay.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Mitsui Garden Hotel Okayama 3\* or similar

## Day 5: Okayama - Nara - Kyoto

Depart Okayama and head north, stopping first at Himeji Castle. Known as the "White Heron Castle," this UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of Japan's most stunning and well-preserved samurai castles, epitomizing the elegance and grandeur of feudal-era architecture.

Next, visit the Cup Noodles Museum, an interactive museum that celebrates the invention of instant ramen. Explore the history of this beloved snack and even create your custom cup of noodles.

In the afternoon, continue to Nara, where you'll visit Todaiji Temple, home to one of the world's largest bronze Buddha statues. Stroll through the nearby Nara Deer Park, where over 1,200 deer—considered sacred messengers in Shintoism—roam freely. End your day in Kyoto, where you will rest in comfort.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Oriental Hotel Kyoto Rokujo 4\* or similar

## Day 6: Kyoto

Today, enjoy a free day to explore Kyoto at your own pace. Whether you choose to visit traditional tea houses, explore hidden temples, or shop in bustling markets, Kyoto offers endless possibilities for discovery and cultural immersion.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Karasuma Kyoto Hotel 3\* or similar

### **Day 7: Kyoto - Kanazawa**

Start your day with a visit to the stunning Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), a Zen temple famous for its top two floors entirely covered in gold leaf. The temple, surrounded by serene gardens and reflecting ponds, is a sight to behold and a must-visit in Kyoto.

Next, journey to the Togetsu Bridge and the enchanting Bamboo Grove in Arashiyama. Walking through the towering bamboo stalks feels like entering another world, offering a tranquil and surreal experience. Afterward, continue your journey to Kanazawa, where you'll spend the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Mystays Premier Kanazawa 3\* or similar

### **Day 8: Kanazawa**

Discover the historic charm of Kanazawa today. Begin with a visit to Buke Yashiki, a traditional samurai house, where you'll learn about the lives of high-ranking samurai during the Edo period. Then, wander through the streets of Higashi Chaya, a district lined with beautifully preserved teahouses.

Later, visit Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's three most famous landscape gardens, known for its seasonal beauty and serene atmosphere. Finally, explore Omicho Market, where you can sample fresh local foods and discover traditional crafts.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Mystays Premier Kanazawa 3\* or similar

### **Day 9: Kanazawa - Shirakawago - Takayama**

Today's adventure takes you to Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage village famous for its Gassho-zukuri farmhouses. These unique thatched-roof houses are designed to withstand heavy snowfalls and offer a glimpse into Japan's rural past. Take in the panoramic views from the observation point and learn about the village's history from your English-speaking guide.

In the afternoon, continue to Takayama, a city known for its well-preserved Edo-period streets and rich cultural heritage. Enjoy your stay in this historic town.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tokyu Stay Hida Takayama Musubi-no-Yu 4\* or similar

### **Day 10: Takayama - Matsumoto**

Spend the day exploring Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Visit the Old Town, where traditional wooden houses and sake breweries line the streets, offering a glimpse into the city's rich history. Explore Takayama Jinya, a former government office, and the Matsuri no Mori Museum, dedicated to the city's famous festivals.

After exploring Takayama, board the bus to Matsumoto, where you will stay overnight.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Iroha Grand Hotel Matsumoto Ekimae 3\* or similar

### **Day 11: Matsumoto - Mt Fuji**

Good morning! Start your day with a visit to Matsumoto Castle, one of Japan's most complete and original castles, known for its striking black exterior and beautiful wooden interiors.

Next, travel to the Mount Fuji area, where you'll visit Oshino Hakkai, a group of eight crystal-clear ponds fed by melted snow from Mount Fuji. Later, ascend to Mount Fuji's 5th Station, located above the clouds, for breathtaking views of Japan's tallest peak (weather permitting).

In the evening, enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers, celebrating the journey you've shared.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sun Plaza Hotel Fuji Lake Yamanakako 3\* or similar

Note:

In case of inclement weather or road closures to the 5th Station, we will visit the Yamanashi Prefectural Mt. Fuji World Heritage Centre, where visitors can explore exhibits highlighting the cultural and natural significance of Mt. Fuji.

### **Day 12: Mt Fuji - Tokyo**

Today, capture stunning views of Mount Fuji from Gotemba Peace Park before embarking on a serene Lake Ashi Cruise. Surrounded by beautiful nature, this cruise offers a peaceful retreat amidst Japan's scenic beauty.

In the afternoon, travel to Tokyo, where you'll spend the night in the bustling capital city.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tmark City Hotel Tokyo Omori 3\* or similar

### **Day 13: Tokyo**

Embark on a full-day tour of Tokyo's top attractions. Begin at Tokyo Tower, where panoramic views from the observation deck offer a unique perspective of the city. Next, experience the energy of Shibuya Crossing, one of the world's busiest intersections, and explore the surrounding shopping and dining areas.

Enjoy a quick lunch at the Tsukiji Fish Market, the world's largest seafood market, where you can sample fresh sushi and soak in the lively atmosphere. Afterward, visit the historic Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest and most revered temple, surrounded by traditional shops and bustling streets.

End your day with a visit to the Imperial Palace, the primary residence of the Emperor of Japan. Explore the Ninomaru Garden and the ruins of the old castle tower while learning about the imperial family's history and culture.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tmark City Hotel Tokyo Omori 3\* or similar

### **Day 14: Tokyo**

Enjoy a free day to explore Tokyo at your own pace. Whether you choose to visit trendy neighborhoods, shop in luxury districts, or discover hidden cultural gems, Tokyo offers endless possibilities.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tmark City Hotel Tokyo Omori 3\* or similar

### **Day 15: Tokyo - Home**

As your Japanese adventure comes to an end, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home at the appropriate time.

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **Day 16: Home**

Welcome home, we hope you enjoyed your amazing holiday in Japan with AVG Travels.

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Return International Flights**
- Return airport transfers
- 14 nights comfortable twin share accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 2 dinners
- Enjoy two free days in Kyoto and Tokyo to discover Japan at your own pace.
- 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>Tuesday</b> 05 Nov 2024	<b>Wednesday</b> 20 Nov 2024	AU\$5,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 19 Nov 2024	<b>Wednesday</b> 04 Dec 2024	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 25 Feb 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 12 Mar 2025	AU\$5,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 11 Mar 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Mar 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 25 Mar 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 09 Apr 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 08 Apr 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 23 Apr 2025	AU\$5,849		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 13 May 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 28 May 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 10 Jun 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 25 Jun 2025	AU\$5,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 26 Aug 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 10 Sep 2025	AU\$5,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 16 Sep 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 01 Oct 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 14 Oct 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 29 Oct 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 28 Oct 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 12 Nov 2025	AU\$5,649		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 11 Nov 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Nov 2025	AU\$5,649		<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 \$2300 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.

**AVG Travels**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339