



Japan Adventure Tour

2023 Detailed Tour Itinerary - Revised

*Note: Travel from the US to Japan is an overnight flight.
You will need to leave the US the day before your expected arrival in Japan.*

HIROSHIMA - 4 nights

Sunday, October 8th - Travel Day

ANA Crown Plaza Hotel, 7-20 Nakamachi, Naka Ward, Hiroshima, 730-0037

Our 21-day tour starts with our arrival in Hiroshima where we will stay at the lovely ANA Crown Plaza Hotel. Many of the those flying into Hiroshima will be arriving in the early evening. Check-in time is 2:00 pm. If you arrive earlier, you may be able to check in early, but if not, store your luggage. Those arriving early or returning from the Naoshima pre-tour will have some free time to explore Hiroshima. We will meet on Monday morning, before breakfast, for introductions and information.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Monday, October 9th - Hiroshima & Miyajima Island

8:00 am - Meet in the hotel lobby for introductions before breakfast. Breakfast is buffet style with open seating.

9:30 am - After breakfast we will regroup in the lobby for a 10-minute walk to the high-speed ferry to Miyajima Island. We will be greeted by the beautiful vermilion tori that sits in the Seto Island Sea. Participants will have a map to explore the island on their own. Some of the popular things to do: The ropeway to the top of Mt Misen, the Itsukushima Shrine, the Daisho-in Temple, shops, restaurants, roaming sacred deer and museums. You will find, as you visit the many shrines and temples throughout Japan, that they are often next to or close to each other. A Shinto shrine will have either a tori and/or very large braids of hemp & straw. Buddhist temples will have a pagoda. The return trip departure time is determined by the tide, you will be advised of the meet up time before leaving the mainland. The ferry docks next to Peace Park. Travelers may visit the park upon return, on their own, or on their free day.

Miyajima High Speed Ferry round trip ticket included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Tuesday, October 10th - Hiroshima Free Day

The Fruiter (Hotel International Buffet) opens for breakfast at 6am and is located by the hotel entrance. There is also the Unkai Restaurant, which serves a Japanese breakfast. It opens at 6:30am, located on the 5th floor. Things of Interest within walking distance from hotel: Peace Park and the Peace Museum, Hiroshima Castle, and Shukkeien Garden (close to the castle). The Hondori Shopping area is about 4 blocks away from our hotel with lots of stores and restaurants.

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Wednesday, October 11th - Toho Beads & Tulip Needles VIP Factory Tours

6:00 am - Hotel restaurant opens for breakfast, arrive early to avoid crowds.

8:45 am - Meet in the hotel lobby where we will be met by Toho beads. We will travel by private bus, first stop will be the Tulip Needle factory to see how these wonderful needles are made. After Tulip we will travel on to the Toho Bead factory for a VIP experience to watch the actual process of the amazing Toho beads being made.

Afternoon return to the ANA Hotel for a short rest.

6:00 pm - Thank You Dinner for Toho and Tulip companies with JAT participants. The restaurant will be a short, 10 to 15-minute walk from the hotel.

Luggage to be shipped ahead via courier (See Helpful Tips - Luggage) needs to be in the lobby tonight or by 8am tomorrow morning.

Shipping luggage cost is not included (\$20 to \$40)

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included.

KYOTO - 10 nights

Thursday, October 12th - Travel to Kyoto

8:00 am - Luggage to be shipped must be checked and paid with the hotel concierge.

Breakfast at your leisure.

10:00 am - Meet in the hotel lobby to travel by public bus to the Hiroshima Train Station.

Travel to Kyoto via Shinkansen (bullet train). Local subway to hotel.

12:30 pm - Approximate arrival at Karasuma Kyoto Hotel

Afternoon and evening on your own to explore Kyoto

Breakfast included. Lunch and Dinner on your own.

Friday, October 13th - Walking tour or Gion, Kyoto

Karasuma Kyoto Hotel, Shimogyo Ward, Kyoto, 600-8412

7:00 to 9:00 am - The breakfast restaurant is open every day and located on the 3rd floor.

Breakfast at your leisure.

10:00 am - Meet in the lobby and take a 15 minute subway ride to the beginning of our walking tour. Makiko and Shinsaku Tada have organized this tour and will be joining us

today as we visit the historic center of Kyoto. Good walking shoes are needed today as parts of Gion are hilly and this will be a full day of walking to temples, and shrines. We don't allow time for shopping while on the tour because there is so much to see but we do suggest you visit later during your free time.

Group lunch at the Sodoh Restaurant, nestled inside a lovely walled Japanese Garden. After the tour the group will split up. Participants may choose to return to the hotel via public transportation or taxi, or return to some of the Gion shops, or join us for a leisurely walk back to the hotel to discover some of the great shopping areas in Kyoto along Shijo Dori, Teramachi Street, and Nishiki Market.

Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 14th - Arashiyama (The Bamboo Forest)

Breakfast at your leisure.

10:00 am - Meet in the lobby, travel by local bus and train to Arashiyama.

10:40am - Arrival Arashiyama Station

Good walking shoes are recommended today as most of Arashiyama can only be experienced on foot. There is such a variety of things to see and do here so everyone will explore their sites of interest on their own at their own pace. Within the park you will find the beautiful Tenruji Temple and Garden, the bamboo grove, the Romantic train, a river ride, shops, and restaurants. Maps with sites of interest will be provided.

3:00 pm - Meetup for our trip back to our hotel. Participants may choose to stay in Arashiyama for dinner. An evening return provides the experience of viewing the Kimono Forest in full illumination. The cylinder-shaped pillars that are lined with traditional Kyoto kimono fabric light the walkway to the train station.

4:30 pm - Meetup in hotel lobby for (optional) walking tour with Adrienne to visit some of her favorite shops.

Local public transportation included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Sunday, October 15th - Day Trip to Himeji Castle and Koko-en Garden

Breakfast at leisure.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby, travel by subway, Shinkansen, and city bus. The approximate travel time is 45 minutes with about 15 minutes of walking. Upon arrival at the castle everyone will be free to explore the castle and gardens on their own. The castle has many, many stairs, and often long lines of people. The real beauty of the castle is the exterior. The interior is fairly sparse. although there are some signage that gives details of the castle's history. The top has great views of the city and beyond.

12:30 pm - Meet for lunch at the Kassui-ken restaurant located in the Koko-en Garden next to the Castle.

3:00 pm - Meet to take the city bus back to Himeji Train Station and return to Kyoto.
Transportation and admission to Himeji Castle and Koko-en Garden included
Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner on your own.

Monday, October 16th - Day Trip to Nara

Breakfast at leisure.

10:00 am - Meet in the lobby for a 1-hour local train ride to the historic city of Nara. Nara was Japan's first capital and the seat of the emperor. We will have local guides take us to some of the UNESCO World Heritage sites that Nara is famous for. Nara is also home to the world's largest Buddha. We will walk or take the city bus to visit sites. Late afternoon return to hotel with time to explore more of Kyoto on your own. Local public transportation and admission to all historic sites that we visit is included
Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner on your own.

Tuesday, October 17th thru Thursday, October 19th - Kumihimo Classes with Makiko Tada, Adrienne Gaskell, and the Kumihimo Society

Be sure to have an early breakfast.

8:45 am - On all class days students will meet in the lobby and travel to the Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT) where the kumihimo classes will be held. We will travel by subway which is located right outside the door of our hotel. It is a short, 15-minute ride followed by a 10-minute walk, and about 3 blocks, to KIT. Marudai are provided. Information about projects and supplies will be provided prior to the trip.

4:00 pm - Classes end. Walk to subway to travel back to the hotel.

Lunches will be provided for kumihimo students in the KIT student cafeteria.

Local public transportation to and from KIT included

Breakfast & lunch included. Dinner on your own

Note: For those not taking classes we do not have a formal itinerary planned but will help guide you to sites of interest. If there is a shared interest in visiting a site or two, we may be available to accompany you. One day is usually a visit the laundromat.

Breakfast included. Lunch and Dinner on your own

Friday, October 20th - Free Day

Breakfast at leisure

Today you may want to return to Gion to explore some of the shops, take a day trip to nearby cities or towns, explore new sites, revisit others, shop, rest or do some laundry. Also recommended are visits to the Silver Pavilion, Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion and the Imperial Palace. Walk along Shijo Dori and visit high end clothing stores, shops, and restaurants. Along the way back to the hotel stop in at the Teramachi, Shinkyogoku and Nishiki, a labyrinth of shops, restaurants, and fresh fish markets. We will provide a map of Kyoto sites of interest along with the location of the nearby coin laundry.

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Saturday 21st - Kyoto Market Day

Breakfast at leisure.

9:00 am - Today, put on your walking shoes, grab your shopping bag, or backpack and meet in the lobby as we head to the Kobo-San Market. This market takes place on the 21st of each month with hundreds of vendors selling antiques, kimonos, obi, street food and a huge assortment of items you will not see anywhere else! After the group arrives at the market, everyone will be free to explore, shop and buy on their own. We all have strategies for shopping in these markets but have found the best option is to walk through the market and go back to vendors you are interested in. We will arrange a meeting place to go back to the hotel. Or, if you would prefer to stay longer, it is an easy trip back to the hotel and we will provide directions for going on your own.

Note: Luggage to be shipped ahead to Tokyo, needs to be down to the lobby tonight or in the morning before 8:30 am for pickup. We will spend two nights in Kanazawa before we arrive in Tokyo so pack your small bag with clothes and toiletries for 2 nights.

Local public transportation included

Cost of shipping luggage is not included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

KANAZAWA - 2 nights

Sunday, October 22nd - Kanazawa, one of Japan's Best Preserved Historical Cities

Today we will depart for Kanazawa for a 2-night stay at the ANA Crown Plaza Kanazawa.

Breakfast on your own.

Before 8:00 am - Luggage to be shipped must be checked and paid for with the hotel concierge.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby and take the subway to Kyoto station for a 2-hour Shinkansen train trip to Kanazawa. We will arrive at Kyoto station early allowing you to purchase a bento box or other snacks for lunch on the train.

12:30 am - Approximate time of arrival at hotel, check-in and get settled.

1:30 pm - Meet up to explore Kanazawa sites near our hotel. Wear your comfortable walking shoes as we will be doing some leisurely walking. You will have more time tomorrow to explore the city on your own. We plan on an early evening return to the hotel, however, if we pass some inviting restaurants you may choose to stop and have dinner.

Local public transportation, train fares and entry fees included

Cost of shipping luggage is not included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Monday, October 23rd - Kanazawa

Breakfast on your own, the hotel restaurant is open from 6:00 to 10am.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby for a briefing with information and map for exploring the many historic sites and places of interest in Kanazawa at your leisure on your own. There is a local bus that connects many of the sites, but plan on some leisurely walking as well.

Kanazawa is known for Kenrokuen (one of the 3 greatest gardens in Japan), the Kanazawa Castle, a Samurai village, as well as the city's historical significance.

Local public transportation included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

TOKYO – 4 nights

Tuesday, October 24th - Travel to Ginza, Tokyo

Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel Ginza, 104-0061 Tokyo, Chuo City, Ginza, 4

Breakfast on your own. The hotel restaurant is open from 6:00 to 10:00am every morning.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby to go to the train station. The train trip to Ginza, Tokyo is almost 3 hours. We plan on arriving at the Kanazawa train station early so that you can purchase a bento box or other items for lunch while on the train. Our luggage will be waiting for us at the hotel when we check in.

2:00 pm - Meet in lobby for an (optional) guided walking tour of Ginza and the famous Kabukiza Theatre. We will be window shopping in this world famous, high-end shopping district. We will also explore some nearby places of interest. Participants are welcome to explore on their own if they don't want to join the tour. Be sure and walk around the area at night to see the amazing lights and amazing store window displays.

Local public transportation and train ticket to Ginza included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Wednesday, October 25th - Itchiku Kubota Museum (Mt. Fuji)

Breakfast on your own. The hotel restaurant is open from 7:00 to 10:00am every morning.

8:45 am - Meet in the lobby for our trip to Itchiku Kubota Museum located at the base of Mt. Fuji. We will be travelling by a private tour bus with a brief stop at a rest area just before arriving at our first destination. On a clear day this stop provides a great photo op. If the weather is good, you can take a ropeway to a viewpoint on Hakone Mountain with a great view of Mt Fuji, Lake Kawaguchi, and the surrounding area. We will have lunch at the famous noodle house, Hoto. Finally will be a visit to the Itchiku Kubota Museum which houses the most incredible shibori kimonos. On our return trip will make a stop at a rest area where you can find snacks, ice cream, souvenirs, and restrooms.

6:00 pm - Approximate arrival time back at the hotel.

Transportation and Itchiku Kubota Museum entrance fee included

Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner on your own.

Thursday, October 26th - Exploring Tokyo

Breakfast on your own.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby and travel by subway to the

Team Lab Planets Tokyo (Museum). After visiting this amazing one-of-a-kind light installation we will head to Roppongi Hills where we will split into two groups:

Group 1: A Nuno shopping experience. We will visit the store and meet with owner and designer, Reiko Sudo, who is known worldwide for her beautiful textural fabrics.

Group 2: Explore the area in and around Roppongi Hills that is one of the popular, happening places in Tokyo offering, museums, shopping, restaurants and nightlife.

Local public transportation and team Lab Planets admission included

Breakfast included. Lunch & Dinner on your own.

Friday, October 27th - Nikko, Japan's Mystical City

Today is our last full day in Japan.

Breakfast on your own.

9:00 am - Meet in the lobby and make our way to the train station for a trip to the historic city of Nikko. Here we will visit several shrines and temples, the beautiful Shinkyo Bridge, and a few waterfalls along the way. We may also be treated to beautiful fall colors that Japan is famous for.

Public transportation and Nikko tourist pass included

Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 28th - Depart for home

Breakfast on your own.

9:00 am - After breakfast we will have a meetup in the lobby for our goodbyes.

11:00 am - Hotel checkout time.

Flights to the US usually depart midafternoon so plan to leave the hotel 4 1/2 to 5 hours prior to your flight to allow for travel time and airline check in. Check with your airline so you know which terminal you will be departing from, Narita has 3 terminals, Haneda only has one international terminal. We recommend taking the airport limousine bus to the airport and will be able to advise you how to make arrangements.

Breakfast included.

All times are subject to change.

Daily itinerary will be confirmed upon arrival at each destination city in Japan.

There may be times that we need to change part of the itinerary due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. We are committed to providing you with a memorable trip and will always provide activities that will add to your experience. Sometimes we find something even better than we had originally planned and may adjust our itinerary to include the unexpected and sublime.