

## World Masters Special Edition

### Highlights of Japan – 9 Day Golden Route Grand Tour

August 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>

Fukuoka to Tokyo, explore the Land of the Rising Sun on this in-depth Best of Japan and its Highlights tour.

From neon-lit skyscrapers to bamboo forests dotted with ancient temples, there's nowhere quite like Japan. This 9-day trip will take you from Fukuoka in the West, visit the always impressive Hiroshima, through the foodie capital of Osaka, enjoy all Kyoto the Ancient Capital has to offer and end in the city lights Tokyo.

Along the way, you'll get to see the old history filled back lanes of Kyoto, enjoy the floating Torii Gate of Hiroshima, sample sake in downtown Osaka and watch the youth culture meet the Old Edo quarters Tokyo. You'll even get the chance to stay in a traditional ryokan-style hotel and sing your heart out at karaoke alongside your fellow travelers.

How can we squeeze so much into one itinerary?

You have Japan's incredible train networks to thank and an experienced operator helping you make the most of your time along The Golden Route of Japan's transit corridor.

## Tour Pricing

(20 maximum)

AUD \$2,790

Single Supplement is AUD \$650 for 6 of the 8 nights

## Highlights

- Experience the comfort, efficiency and thrill of riding the bullet train
- Uncover Hiroshima's past at the Peace Park and Museum
- See the floating Torii Gate and deer on Miyajima Island
- Walk through bamboo forests and the endless gates of Fushimi Inari
- Explore the backstreets of Kyoto with the chance to see geishas
- Stay in a traditional ryokan
- Evening walking tour of the backstreets of Shinjuku in Tokyo

## Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation, including one night in a Japanese local inn - ryokan
- Private and local transport
- 8 breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners
- Osaka downtown walking experience
- Hiroshima and Miyajima Island tour and Shukkei en garden
- Bamboo forest and temple visit in Kyoto
- Fushimi Inari morning walk tour
- Sake tasting
- Tsukiji Outer Market tour
- Tokyo evening walking experience
- Karaoke night
- Entry fees as per the itinerary
- All transport as part of the itinerary, including Japan Rail Pass for Shinkansen

## Exclusions (Not Included)

- International and domestic flights, visas
- Travel and medical insurance
- All services, meals other than those indicated above
- Any changes to the proposed and confirmed program.
- All items of a personal nature e.g., drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips etc

## Daily Itinerary

B for Breakfast, L for Lunch, D for Dinner

Day	Destination	Itinerary	
August 12th	Hiroshima	<p>Strolling Garden visit, try Okonomiyaki in Hiroshima</p> <p>After breakfast at the hotel, it's time to climb aboard the bullet train to Hiroshima. On arrival, you'll have the afternoon to explore at leisure – take a stroll around the Shukkei-en garden, dotted with maple and ginkgo trees. Come dinner, we sample the local favourite dish okonomiyaki, a popular savoury pancake, topped with veggies, meat, seafood, or a combination.</p> <p>You'll spend the next two nights in Hiroshima.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Nest Hotel Hiroshima Ekimae (or similar)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Shukkei - en garden</p>	B, D
August 13th	Hiroshima	<p>Visit the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, plus Miyajima Island</p> <p>A fully guided day awaits, starting with a visit to Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum to learn more about the city's past. Afterwards, take a local train and ferry to Miyajima Island, where those that are keen can hike Mount Misen; the peak, at 500m (1,640ft) above sea level, offers spectacular views over Hiroshima city.</p> <p>Descend to the floating Torii Gate, an ancient Shinto shrine, and snap pictures of a thousand tame deer that mingle with locals here. After sunset, you'll hop on the ferry back to your Hiroshima hotel.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Nest Hotel Hiroshima Ekimae (or similar)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Hiroshima and Miyajima Island tour Guided Mount Misen hike</p>	B

B for Breakfast, L for Lunch, D for Dinner

Day	Destination	Itinerary	Meals
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Osaka	<p>Explore Osaka City, including the castle and Kuromon Market</p> <p>Today is all about exploring the best bits of Osaka city on foot and by metro, led by our Local Insider. Marvel at the 400-year-old Osaka Castle as well as the uber-modern Umeda Sky Building.</p> <p>Explore the eclectic Shinsekai neighborhood; built in 1912 and largely unchanged, it's home to souvenir shops as well as traditional eateries. Lunch is served at a local restaurant, after which you can explore the Kuromon Market and the famed Dotonbori strip (home to the first sushi train in the world).</p> <p>Rest your weary feet back at the hotel before dinner.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Hotel Gracery Osaka Namba (or similar)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Full-day guided Osaka tour</p>	B, L
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Kyoto	<p>Wander through the Arashiyama bamboo forest</p> <p>Pack your bags – it's time to head to Kyoto. We head east by shinkansen bullet train to one of the worlds most famous cities - Kyoto.</p> <p>On arrival we ready for our afternoon in the stunning river and mountain area of Arashiyama.</p> <p>You know those towering green bamboo forests?</p> <p>Get ready to stroll through them, camera at the ready. Make sure you're wearing comfortable walking shoes as you'll then hike up to a sacred temple in the mountains.</p> <p>Hop on the train back to Kyoto, where you'll bed down your local inn - tatami floored ryokan.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Local Inn, Ryokan</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Bamboo forest visit, Temple hike</p>	B

B for Breakfast, L for Lunch, D for Dinner

Day	Destination	Itinerary	Meals
August 16th	Kyoto	<p>Enjoy the 10,000 Torii Gates and wonder for Geisha spotting points in the old lanes</p> <p>It's an early wake-up this morning, for good reason: to enjoy walking through the thousands of bright orange torii gates at Fushimi Inari while attempting to avoid the crowds.</p> <p>After a hearty breakfast back at the hotel, you'll take a leisurely walking tour through the maze of backstreets in Kyoto to Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) and the Nishiki food market.</p> <p>As the sun sets, you can be excited as we enjoy a local district tour of Gion to see geishas walking the streets before their shows.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Local Inn, ryokan  <b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Fushimi Inari sunrise tour, Kyoto walking tour</p>	B
August 17th	Kyoto/Tokyo	<p>Explore Kyoto by day, Enjoy Tokyo by night</p> <p>Today is your free time to enjoy the many varied possibilities in Kyoto. Your leader can suggest some options available to you, which include the 17 UNESCO sites, various markets, ancient areas of town, shopping districts and the Philosophers Walk or the Hieizan mountain temple and pilgrim trails in the North East.</p> <p>A visit to Nara is possible also for those wanting more trains and ancient capitals. The importance of this town lies in its history, as in 710AD it was the first capital that consolidated the Japanese state. Your leader will select your temples to visit wisely, as it's easy to get lost in the history of Nara.</p> <p>You'll certainly enjoy a visit to the most significant temple, Todaiji, which houses the great Buddha, sheltered in the largest wooden temple in the world. This impressive site will leave a lasting memory and remind you of the far reaches and incarnations of the Buddhist faith.</p> <p>After your visit to Nara, return to Kyoto via another truly significant temple - the Byodoin Temple. What's unique about this temple is the Phoenix Hall (Hodo), which has survived fires and countless wars over the centuries to remain as it was in the 700s. The history of this wooden structure is certainly something to behold.</p> <p>A late afternoon train ride to hopefully catch a glimpse of Fuji in the sunset before your leader's introduction to Tokyo by night.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Hotel Resol Ueno (or similar)  <b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Evening walk and orientation Tokyo</p>	B

B for Breakfast, L for Lunch, D for Dinner

Day	Destination	Itinerary	Meals
August 18th	Tokyo	<p>Old Edo, New Tokyo</p> <p>You'll spend the last few days of your trip exploring Tokyo, the capital of Japan.</p> <p>Your first morning will be spent watching sumo wrestlers at a local training session, followed by a visit to the fish market, Tsukiji Outer Market. Lunch revolves around a sushi-making class, where you'll eat your own creations.</p> <p>Spend the afternoon visiting Meiji Shrine, Yoyogi Park, and Shibuya Crossing, the busiest crosswalk in the world. Kick back at your hotel in the evening or hit the streets with your leaders help for the city that never sleeps.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Hotel Resol Ueno (or similar)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Sumo wrestler training visit (season permitting) Tsukiji Outer Market tour Sushi-making class Meiji Shrine and Yoyogi Park tour</p>	B, L
August 19th	Tokyo	<p>Free exploring in Tokyo, sing karaoke in Kabukicho</p> <p>Your final full day in Japan will see a visit to the Asakusa district and the glorious Sensō-ji temple.</p> <p>After lunch enjoy exploring at leisure - your leader will present multiple options - walking course, foodies course, architecture course, religious course, sporting course to name a few.</p> <p>Come nightfall, it's time for our celebratory farewell evening. Enjoy a tour around the buzzing, neon-lit Shinjuku district, where you'll be afforded panoramic city vistas from the TMG Building, before moving onto the nightlife area of Kabukicho for dinner.</p> <p>End the trip on a high note (quite literally) by singing karaoke in the Golden Gai district until the early hours.</p> <p><b>ACCOMMODATION:</b> Hotel Resol Ueno (or similar)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:</b> Asakusa tour Sensō-ji temple visit Shinjuku tour, Farewell dinner and karaoke night</p>	B, D

B for Breakfast, L for Lunch, D for Dinner

August 20th		We depart today and take some time to enjoy the area and surrounds with the leader able to help you transfer to the airport or onward travel within Japan.	B
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## Accommodation

### Hotel Gracery Osaka Namba (or similar)

Tranquil rooms at Hotel Gracery provide respite from the busy Namba district in Osaka. Tuck into a western buffet breakfast each morning. The bars and restaurants of Dotonbori are a five-minute walk away.

### Nest Hotel Hiroshima Ekimae (or similar)

A chic spot to rest your head in Hiroshima. Rooms are sleek and light-filled, while downstairs the cafe lounge is decked in earthy tones and minimalist furnishings. You're perfectly placed for exploring the city on foot.

### Matsubaya Ryokan (or similar)

Just a 5-minute walk to Higashihongan-ji Temple and Gojo Subway Station, Matsubaya Ryokan has provided comfortable rooms to tired travellers since 1884. A cosy Japanese garden is located on site.

### Hotel Resol Ueno (or similar)

You couldn't be closer to the Tokyo National Museum and Ueno Park at this central Tokyo hotel.