

## SPLENDOURS OF JAPAN

9 Days 1 Country 5 Cities

DISCOVER THE ESSENCE OF JAPAN ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FROM ICONIC TOKYO TO TAKAYAMA AND KYOTO.



### THE ITINERARY

#### **Day 1 ARRIVE TOKYO (2 NIGHTS)**

Your in-depth exploration of Japan begins in Tokyo. On arrival at Narita or Haneda Airport, take a shuttle bus transfer to your centrally located hotel, where you'll join your Travel Director and fellow guests for a Welcome Reception drink and local appetisers.

- ★ Hotel - New Otani Garden Tower
- ★ Included Meals - Welcome Reception

#### **Day 2 TOKYO SIGHTSEEING**

We launch our City Tour in the old-time entertainment centre of Asakusa, where we'll encounter the Sensoji Buddhist Temple. One of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples, Sensoji has been rebuilt countless times since it was founded in 628, making it Tokyo's oldest temple site. Strolling down Nakamise next, we immerse ourselves in the sights and sounds of shitamachi (downtown Tokyo), admiring the wooden dolls, colourful chiyogami (origami paper) and traditional Japanese sweets. We'll ascend Tokyo Skytree, the world's highest free-standing broadcasting tower for panoramic views of the city, then enjoy the rest of the day at leisure or on an Optional Experience where a professional stylist will dress you in a traditional Japanese kimono.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 3 TOKYO - LAKE YAMANAKAKO**

Our first stop today is the Imperial Palace Plaza from where the two bridges that form the entrance to the inner grounds of the Imperial Palace can be viewed. We'll have the opportunity to explore the leafy Imperial Palace East Gardens before continuing our City Tour. At the Edo-Tokyo Museum, we delve into the history and culture of Tokyo's Edo era, then continue to the Ginza district where we'll learn how to make sushi with a 'Local Specialist'. We venture to the Five Lakes District next, keeping a keen eye out for the UNESCO listed Mt. Fuji which dominates the landscape.

- ★ Hotel - Fuji Marriott Yamanakako
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **Day 4 LAKE YAMANAKAKO - MT. FUJI – TAKAYAMA**

Visit Oshino Hakkai, a small rural village in the Fuji Five Lakes district, renowned for eight natural spring water ponds that are fed by melted snow from Mt. Fuji. Admire the reflections of the sky and landscapes in its clear waters, then ascend Mt. Fuji by road to 2,300 metres at the 5th station. Ride up Mt. Tenjo on the Kachikachiyama Ropeway next, for jaw-dropping views (weather permitting) of Mt. Fuji and Lake Kawaguchiko. Then, journey through the Japanese Alps to the beautiful hillside town of Takayama, before enjoying dinner at the hotel.

- ★ Hotel - Associa Takayama Resort
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 5 TAKAYAMA - GOKAYAMA - KANAZAWA (2 NIGHTS)**

Immerse yourself in tradition as you walk through the Edo-style streets of Takayama's Old Town. Indulge a lunch of Japanese Hida-gyu - beef from a black-haired Japanese cattle breed, renowned as one of the finest quality varieties of beef. Journey back in time this afternoon during a visit to the peaceful UNESCO-listed Gokayama, a mountain village set amidst five valleys. Admire the unique construction of the local Gassho-zukuri wooden houses that have been built without the use of nails with steeply sloped thatched roofs to prevent snow from building up on them. Next, meet a local family in one of these houses, then 'Dive Into Culture' observing local artisans making washi paper and trying your hand at making your own. 'Make A Difference' to the sustainability of this small business during your visit. Stay overnight in Kanazawa.

- ★ Hotel - Kanazawa Tokyu
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Lunch

#### **Day 6 KANAZAWA SIGHTSEEING**

Join a 'Local Specialist' this morning to learn the secrets of painting gold leaf, a delicate craft the Japanese have been perfecting since the 16th century. Continue to the tranquil gardens of Kenrokuen, which took shape over a hundred years to emerge as one of Japan's most beautiful gardens. Connecting with your exquisite natural surrounds, you'll stroll through ornate landscapes and past ponds and temples. Take a short walk through the Omicho market next to see the local fish catch and enjoy an insider's view of everyday life in a busy coastal town. Then, visit the Nagamachi District with its beautifully preserved samurai houses that line the traditional stone streets. Here you will gain first-hand insights into samurai life during a visit to the Nomura house, an elegant samurai mansion.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 7 KANAZAWA - KYOTO (2 NIGHTS)**

We board an Express train this morning to Kyoto, where we'll 'Connect With Locals' at a traditional ryokan, built in 1932 to serve as the second residence of Emperor Akihito's uncle. We'll enjoy a 'Be My Guest' lunch and learn about local Japanese customs as our hosts welcome us into their beautiful home. After lunch, we visit the UNESCO-listed Kinkakuji Temple with its famous Kinkaku (Golden Pavilion), the proud symbol of Kyoto and a Zen temple, which has its origins as a 14th century villa.

- ★ Hotel - Nikko Princess Kyoto
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Be My Guest

#### **Day 8 KYOTO SIGHTSEEING**

The blazing orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari Shrine guide our path through the forest, up into the mountains and to a sacred site that has heard prayers for prosperity and happiness since the 8th century. We continue to Sanjusangen-do Hall and admire the minute detail of each of its 1,001 "thousand-handed" goddesses of mercy statues, then enjoy a walking tour of the Gion area. This evening, we indulge in a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and fellow guests.

- ★ Hotel - Rihga Royal
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Lunch

#### **Day 9 HIROSHIMA SIGHTSEEING**

The blazing orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari Shrine guide our path through the forest, up into the mountains and to a sacred site that has heard prayers for prosperity and happiness since the 8th century. We continue to Sanjusangen-do Hall and admire the minute detail of each of its 1,001 "thousand-handed" goddesses of mercy statues, then enjoy a walking tour of the Gion area. This evening, we indulge in a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and fellow guests.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

## Day 10 DEPART KYOTO

Our encounter with Japan's age-old traditions and modern cityscapes at its end, we take a transfer by airport shuttle service to Kansai International Airport or Osaka Itami Airport for our onward flight. Alternatively, continue to Hiroshima by choosing the 13 day itinerary Splendours of Japan with Hiroshima.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

## ABOUT THIS TRIP

### What's included

- **8 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **15 MEALS** 8 Breakfast, 3 Lunches (Including Be My Guest), 4 Dinners
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** Land transportation included. Where applicable, Intra-air between cities are not included.

### The Trafalgar difference

- **CONNECT WITH LOCALS** A kaiseki lunch at a traditional Japanese ryokan home near Kyoto where you will learn about local customs. (Day 7)
- **DIVE INTO CULTURE** Sample Japanese sake during a walking tour in the Edo-style streets of Takayama Old Town. Learn how local artisans make Japanese washi paper in the UNESCO village of Gokayama. (Day 5)
- **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** Help support a local business with a visit to a washi paper workshop. You'll watch the family at work, and test your paper-making skills for yourself. (Day 5)
- **LOCAL SPECIALISTS** Sushi making in Tokyo (Day 3) and Gold Leaf painting in Kanazawa (Day 6).

### Sightseeing highlights

- CITY TOUR of Tokyo, and Kyoto
- VISIT the Sensoji Temple, the Skytree, the Edo Tokyo Museum in Tokyo, Mt. Fuji 5th Station, the Kinkakuji Temple, Sanjusangen-do Hall, Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto
- VIEW Mt. Fuji
- SEE the traditional Gassho-zukuri houses in Gokayama, the beautiful gardens of Kenrokuen in Kanazawa

### Travel highlights

Specific transfer information can be found here:

- ✓ Audio Headsets for flexible sightseeing
- ✓ Daily breakfast and an average of 50% of evening meals
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach with WiFi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels all tried and trusted
- ✓ Handcrafted Highlights
- ✓ Optional Experiences and free time
- ✓ All portage and restaurant gratuities
- ✓ Must-see sightseeing and surprise extras
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and separate Driver
- ✓ All hotel tips, charges and local taxes
- ✓ Airport transfers on the first and last day of your guided holiday