

Travel With Me
P.O.BOX 1856
MANDURAH WA 6210
Tel: +61 8 6555 6520
Email: enquiries@twme.com.au
Website: www.travelwithme.com.au
License: 9TA736
ABN: 88009206151



Japan in the Springtime

Duration : **16 Days / 15 Nights**
Departure Dates : **Departing 16 March 2016**
Tour Type : Travel with Me Exclusive Journey – Escorted by Annette Porter

Day 1 : 16 March – Arrive Tokyo

Meet and Assist on arrival Transfer to Hotel by private coach Check in starts at 15:00pm Rest of the day at leisure Welcome dinner at hotel or restaurant walking distance to hotel

Hotel: Park Hotel or similar (D)

Day 2 : 17 March -Tokyo

After breakfast enjoy a full day tour with your local English speaking guide
Visit the *Tsukiji Fish* market, there may also be an opportunity to see a whole tuna being cut and filleted
From the market we will take the subway to *Asakusa* – a part of Tokyo's old town
Asakusa – is the city's oldest Geisha district and also home to Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple
The next stop will be *Meiji Jingu* – Tokyo's most famous Shinto shrine
After witnessing the difference between a Buddhist temple and a Shinto shrine we will explore Japan's pop and modern culture. Visit Harajuku and Omotesando – known as Tokyo's Champs-Elysees

Hotel: Park Hotel or similar (B)



Day 3 : 18th March - Nikko

This morning meet with guide at hotel and depart for Nikko by train Take a 2 hour journey by train into the mountains of Nikko Visit some of the famous places in Nikko such as the *Togshogu Shrine* complex and the *Tamozawa Imperial Villa*

Hotel: Park Hotel or similar (B)



Day 4 : 19 March – Hakone – Mount Fuji

Your luggage is delivered from your hotel in Tokyo to your hotel in Hakone

Meet with your guide and depart for Hakone by rail, this 1.5 hour journey will take you from Tokyo to the gateway of Mt Fuji and its surrounding national park. We will arrive at Odawara station and take a local train to Hakone.

Tonight we stay in a Ryokan or traditional Japanese style accommodation

In the evening we will be relaxing in our Yukata or Kimono and dining on a sumptuous *Kaiseki* (multicourse) meal

An onsen after dinner is highly recommended

Hotel: Yunohana Onsen or similar (Japanese Style room) (B/D)



Day 5 : 20th March – Mount Fuji

Today we have the whole day to explore all of Fuji Hakone National park with our English speaking guide. Throughout the day we will have the chance to catch a glimpse of Mt Fuji, we will also have the opportunity to eat one of Hakone's specialties, the *Kuro-tamago*, an egg hard boiled in the sulphuric hot springs at Owakudani valley and take the ropeway down to Togendai pier

Lunch is served at Hakone hotel (buffet)

After lunch the rest of the day is at leisure

Dinner is at a local Ryokan

Hotel: Yunohana Onsen or similar (Japanese Style room) (B/L/D)

Day 6 : 21st March - Takayama

This morning we will need to have an overnight bag ready for Takayama and our luggage will be delivered to the Ryokan in Yudanaka from the Hakone hotel. When Checking out from the Hakone hotel we will take a 4.5hour train ride to Takayama via Nagoya. This afternoon we recommend visiting one of town's many sake breweries

In Takayama we will be staying in another Ryokan

Hotel: Best Western or Similar (B)

Day 7 : 22nd March – Takayama and Shirakawago

This morning we depart for our morning market tour with our local English speaking guide. This market is along the Miyagawa river in the old town. Continuing to stroll Kamisannomachi street, we will indulge in Sake tasting.

We will then visit the Shirakawago which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. (Approx 1hr journey by bus from Takayama to Shirakawago)

Hotel: Best Western or Similar (B)



Day 8 : 23rd March – Takayama to Yudanaka

Today we check out from our Takayama hotel and depart for Takayama Festival Floats Exhibition Hall to view the festival. Travel by train to Yudanaka and stay in a traditional Ryokan (Approx 4.5hours by train)
This evening an English speaking Geisha will entertain us during our traditional Japanese dinner
She will play on the “Shamisen”, sing and dance Japanese “Odori”
Dinner is served at the Ryokan

Hotel: Kokuya or similar – Japanese Style room with toilet – public bathroom (B/D)

Day 9 : 24th March - Snow Monkeys in Yudanaka

Today we will be picked up from our Ryokan and get an introduction to the area, we will then visit the Snow Monkey Park and a Japanese paper factory with our guide
Dinner is served at your Ryokan
Travel by Taxi to Jigokundani area – Monkey park is a 10 minute walk

Hotel: Kokuya or similar – Japanese Style room with toilet – public bathroom (B/D)



Day 10 : 25th March – Train to Kyoto

This morning take a train to Kyoto with our guide. (Approx 6 hours) Upon arrival in Kyoto, transfer to hotel by Subway The rest of the day is at leisure

Hotel: Westin Miyako or similar (B)



Day 11 : 26th March – Hiroshima and Miyajima

Explore both Hiroshima and Miyajima with a knowledgeable local guide

Transfer to Kyoto station by subway – take the bullet train to Hiroshima from Kyoto station (Approx 1hr & 20min)

After arriving in Hiroshima we will travel by road to the A-Bomb Dome, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Then head on to the Peace memorial museum and continue onwards to Hiroshima Peace Memorial museum

Early in the afternoon take a short ferry ride to Miyajima – here you will find the most photographed site in Japan – *The Floating Torii Gate*

Return to Kyoto by bullet train and back to our hotel by subway from Kyoto station

Hotel: Westin Miyako or similar (B)



Day 12 : 27th March - Kyoto

After breakfast meet with your guide and depart on full day city tour by public transport 09:00am start with a visit to Kinkakuji or the Golden Pavilion; Continue on to Ryoan-ji the site of Japan's most famous rock garden 14:00pm After experiencing an Okonomiyaki lunch visit *Niko Castle* 16:00pm After your tour your guide will escort you back to your hotel to relax

Hotel: Westin Miyako or similar (B/L)



Day 13: 28th March – Visit Nara – Free afternoon

We will visit Nara in the morning and have the afternoon free in Kyoto (Recommended activities – cooking class or visit to the Handicraft centre)

Hotel: Westin Miyako or similar (B)

Day 14 : 29th March – Train to Osaka

After breakfast, depart from Osaka by local train with guide. Your luggage will be delivered from Kyoto to Osaka and will arrive the same day

Travel by rail to Osaka and this afternoon enjoy a half day walking tour

Explore the Osaka Castle – the city's best known sight for Cherry blossom season

Today we will have a picnic lunch in a park near Osaka Castle

Hotel: Swisshotel Nankai or similar (B)

Day 15: 30th March – Free Day in Osaka

Enjoy a day at leisure This evening enjoy a Shabu Shabu farewell dinner

Hotel: Swisshotel Nankai or similar (B/D)



Day 16 : 31st March – Depart Osaka

After breakfast transfer to Osaka International airport by private coach **(B)**