

The best of

JAPAN

A fully escorted 12 day tour of Japan October 2014

*From \$5,530 per person / twin share inclusive of return economy class flights,
transfers, superior class accommodation and all touring.*

Visiting Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone / Mt Fuji, Kyoto, Nara and Hiroshima



Specialised Travel

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The Best of Japan . . .



Day 1: Sunday 05 OCT

Depart Australia (meals in flight)

Check in for your Malaysia Airlines flight to Kuala Lumpur two hours before departure. Check your luggage all the way to Tokyo, carrying with you only an overnight bag. After Immigration and Customs at Kuala Lumpur airport make your way to your deluxe hotel, a brief walk via the air bridge, for the night.

Overnight: Sama-Sama KLIA

Day 2: Monday 06 OCT

Tokyo (B, meals in flight)

Breakfast at the hotel. As you checked your luggage through to Tokyo, and you have your boarding pass, we walk direct to our boarding gate. Arrive in Tokyo, where you will be welcomed by our airport representative and will be taken to your hotel by private transportation. If you are not tired after today's 7 hour flight, we recommend you to walk around Shinjuku to see the famous neon lights of Tokyo. You can also visit to the huge Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings nearby and see Tokyo by night from the observatory on its 45th floor.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo



Day 3: Tuesday 07 OCT Tokyo (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will spend a full day taking in some of the many highlights Tokyo has to offer with a local guide by public transport. Your first stop is Meiji Jingu, Tokyo's most famous shrine, dedicated to the spirit of the late Emperor Meiji. The shrine is a popular site for Japanese Weddings; if you are lucky you may see a bride and groom dressed in traditional Shinto wedding attire. From old to new Tokyo as we then take a walk down Omotesando, commonly referred to as Tokyo's Champs-Elysees. This broad, tree lined avenue features a multitude of fashion flagship stores designed by internationally renowned architects within a short distance of each other. A short subway ride will then take us to Asakusa, part of Tokyo's Shitamachi, or old town. Asakusa is home to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple, and is also the city's oldest Geisha district. The streets around Sensoji have many traditional shops selling Japanese crafts and souvenirs and are a delight to wander through. We will then see Tokyo from a different angle as we take a cruise down the Sumida Gawa river by boat to Hamarikyu - Teien. This stunning former private garden of an Edo Period lord is an oasis surrounded by a sea of skyscrapers. Note: The order of this itinerary may change according to the timing and logistics.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo

Day 4: Wednesday 08 OCT

Tokyo – Kamakura Day Trip (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Our guide will escort us for a tour in Kamakura, a sleepy seaside resort town about an hour south of Tokyo. It was the capital of the country for about 200 years and boasts some of Japan's most beautiful temples and shrines. The immense Great Buddha sits



serenely under an open sky after his sheltering temple was washed away in a tsunami 800 years ago. Hase Temple contains a towering, yet exquisitely carved and gilded statue of Kannon, the god of compassion. Her temple includes a cave complex, a wonderful water garden and a view of the Kamakura coastline. You can contemplate nirvana over a bowl of green tea served in a lush bamboo grove while visiting the quiet Bamboo Temple; or wash your money in a cave dedicated to Benten, the snake god, who guarantees that all money washed will come back to doubled. Komachi-dori, the main shopping street, is lined with traditional craft shops selling decoratively-printed washi paper or intricately woven bamboo baskets.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo

Day 5: Thursday 09 OCT Tokyo (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today has plenty of leisure time to discover what Akihabara, the electronics district has to offer or take a stroll in one of Tokyo's beautiful parks: we recommend Yoyogi Koen park, Shinjuku Koen or the Imperial Palace East Gardens, attached to the residence of the Emperor.

Overnight: Hilton Tokyo

Day 6: Friday 10 OCT

Tokyo – Hakone / Mt Fuji (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Our guide will assist with our transfer to Hakone which will take 2½~3 hours. It is the gateway to Mt Fuji and surrounding national park. The area is famous for its onsen (natural hot springs), and has natural beauty in abundance. Armed with your Transport Pass, your guide will show you around, and you can take advantage of the numerous forms of transport on offer throughout the Park. Ride the world's second longest cable car up Mt Owakudani, passing over sulfurous fumes, hot springs and hot rivers in this volcanic area. In clear weather you have a view of majestic Mt. Fuji.

A replica pirate ship will sweep you across the Lake Ashinoko, a lake formed by a volcanic eruption 3000 years ago. It is a pleasant half an hour ride and if Mount Fuji is not in her shy mood today, you can have a view from aboard. Walk to the Checkpoint Museum, a replica of one of the olden checkpoints of the Edo highway that connected Kyoto to Edo (as Tokyo was known back then). Dinner at our Resort tonight.

Overnight: Prince Resort Hakone

Day 7: Saturday 11 OCT

Hakone / Mt Fuji (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Spend this day at leisure to enjoy the onsen facilities of your accommodation, or take a walk in surrounding nature. You may want to make use of your Hakone Free Pass today, too, and take the cable car ride to Ashinoko and walk along the lakeshore enjoying views of Fuji, weather permitting. Hakone offers many other options; you might want to visit Hakone Open Air Museum near Gora, featuring sculptures from world renowned artists set against the back drop

of Hakone's picturesque mountains. You can also use the Hakone Tozan 'switchback train' as it zigzags through the mountains, giving amazing views of the surrounding valleys. Dinner at our Resort tonight.

Overnight: Prince Resort Hakone

Day 8: Sunday 12 OCT

Hakone / Mt Fuji – Kyoto (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave beautiful Hakone and Fuji behind as you make your way in the morning to Kyoto. Kyoto is home to an astonishing 2000 Shrines and Temples, including 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Today we have in store a truly amazing experience as you learn about Japanese culture while getting familiar with Tea ceremony. Walk around the historic Gion district early evening in the hope of spotting a Geiko san (as geishas are called in this part of the country) hurrying on wooden clogs to her appointment.

Overnight: Granvia Hotel

Day 9: Monday 13 OCT

Kyoto (B, L)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you explore the former imperial capital with a knowledgeable local guide, by private coach. You will start your day with a visit to Nijo Castle. This ornamental castle was built by the founder of the Edo Shogunate as his Kyoto residence and is surrounded by stunning gardens. The main building was completed in 1603, and is famous for its Momoyama architecture, decorated sliding doors and 'chirping' nightingale floors. Continue on to Kinkakuji, the Golden Pavilion. Originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun, after his death it became a Buddhist Temple at his request, and is now one of Kyoto's most famous temples. The final stop of the morning is Daitoku-ji Zen temple complex, which consists of a main temple and 22 sub-temples. You will visit Daisen-in sub temple, which was founded in 1464 and has one of Japan's best Zen rock gardens, perfect for a spot of Zazen meditation after a busy morning. After lunch, visit Kiyomizu (Pure Water) Temple. From the 13m high veranda jutting out from the Main Hall you can enjoy amazing views of the whole of Kyoto, whilst pondering the fact that both the Main Hall and Veranda were built without the use of nails or any kind of joiners. Finish off the day with a stroll through the atmospheric Higashiyama district, whose busy lanes lead up to Kiyomizu and are filled with quaint shops selling souvenirs including Kiyomizu-yaki pottery, sweets and pickles.

Overnight: Granvia Hotel

Day 10: Tuesday 14 OCT

Kyoto – Day trip to Nara (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning our guide will escort us on our private coach to Nara. For 74 years during the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital and many of the temples and shrines built at that time still remain. You will visit Todaiji Temple, the world's largest wooden building and home to Japan's largest Buddha, and Kasuga Taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine. You will also have time to wander through Nara Park, called Deer Park by locals due to the large population of tame deer living there.

Overnight: Granvia Hotel

Day 11: Wednesday 15 OCT

Kyoto – Day trip to Hiroshima (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will make an early start and take the shinkansen train to Hiroshima where you meet our guide at the station. Pack a backpack with your camera and extra batteries as you will visit the scenic Miyajima, which offers endless photo opportunities. Hiroshima is most famous for one moment in history. On 6 August 1945, it became the first target of an atomic bomb. However, Hiroshima has risen phoenix-like from the ashes, and rebuilt itself as one of Japan's most laid back, vibrant cities full of wide boulevards and Art Museums, great food and welcoming people. In the morning, visit the Peace Museum and Park that converts the message of Peace to visitors from around the world. In the afternoon, you will take a tram and a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island, a famous wooded island located in the Inland Sea near Hiroshima. Here you will find perhaps the most photographed site in Japan - The Floating Torii Gate. Designated as one of Japan's 'Three Most Beautiful Views', the shrine itself dates back to the 6th century and is designed in a pier-like structure. Mere 'commoners' were not allowed to set foot on this holy place. Take the shinkansen back to Kyoto in the early evening.

Overnight: Granvia Hotel

Day 12: Thursday 16 OCT

Depart Japan

(B, meals in flight)

Breakfast at the hotel. Early morning transfer by private vehicle to Kansai Airport. Our Malaysia Airlines flight takes us to Kuala Lumpur where you have the option to connect to your overnight flight home, or stay a day or two in Kuala Lumpur. Ask your travel Consultant for details and cost.

Overnight in flight

Day 13: Friday 17 OCT

Australia or Stopover in KL

(B in flight)

Arrive home, the time depending on your capital city.

\$5,530 per person / twin share
Single supplement \$1,090

Tour Includes:

- Return economy class international airfares inclusive of taxes
- Hotel accommodation in twin room
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B, L, D)
- Airport Meet and Greet
- Return airport transfers
- PASMO Tokyo transport pass
- JRPass 7 days, ordinary class
- Roundtrip train from Tokyo to Kamakura
- Hakone Free Pass
- Kyoto transportation by private coach
- Luggage forwarding for long rail journeys
- English speaking local guide
- All entrance fees and transportation on the guided days as per itinerary
- Information Pack

Tour price does not include:

- Passport valid for 6 months
- Meals other than mentioned above
- Personal expenses (drinks, laundry, telephone, etc.)
- We strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance covering emergency medical evacuation



Your Accommodation . . . Check out the websites

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THE PRINCE HAKONE:
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TERMS & CONDITIONS

ITINERARY & COSTS

- Prices are based on the exchange rate at the time of printing. They are quoted in Australian Dollars and are GST free for international travel, and GST inclusive for domestic travel and services.
- Details of particular hotels described in the itinerary may change due to quality control by the Tour Operator. Every endeavour will be made to keep details up to date. A hotel of similar or superior standard will be substituted.
- Flight schedules are correct at the time of printing. Any changes are outside of the control of Specialised Travel. Should the itinerary and tour costs change as a result of schedule changes, the passenger will bear the difference.
- In the event that change(s) cause the tour to be substantially different than the initial price quoted, the passenger has the right to withdraw from the tour. Some airline and/or hotel deposits may be forfeited.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL INSURANCE

- It is your personal responsibility to ensure you are adequately protected for travel outside of Australia. You can obtain information from your family doctor or consult the Traveller's Medical and Vaccination Centre in your capital city by phoning 1300 658 844.
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended.
- Specialised Travel will require proof of a policy or a signed Declaration from any traveller declining Travel Insurance.

CANCELLATION CLAUSE

- Bookings cancelled at any time after confirmation will automatically incur a loss of deposit. In addition to the loss of deposit, other charges may be enforced by the airline, hotel or tour operator up to 100% of the tour cost, particularly within 45 days of departure.
- Any group tour may be cancelled if insufficient

numbers are booked or events outside of our control cause cancellation. Optional dates will be offered in such cases.

- Upon paying any money for deposits, part or full amounts, it is desirable to purchase your Travel Insurance to guard against most forms of cancellation.

ROOM TYPES & BEDDING

- Prices for this tour are based on existing bedding at the hotels selected. Additional bedding will need to be specifically requested and is subject to availability.
- A Single Supplement is required to be paid if sole occupancy of a room is required. Single, interconnecting, twin as against double, smoking or non-smoking rooms need to be clearly referred to on the booking form, and are based upon availability.

PASSPORT VALIDITY & VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Passports will require at least six months validity from the date of entry into a foreign country.
- Depending upon your Nationality, a Visa may be required prior to departing Australia.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE & SECURITY CONTROL

- Economy Class travellers are allowed 20kgs per person. Business Class passengers are permitted 30 Kgs. No one bag may exceed 35 Kgs.
- Carry-on luggage is restricted to 5 Kgs, and no larger in size than 48cm X 34 cm X 23 cm. No sharp objects such as a nail file, scissors, Swiss Army knife, etc; is permitted in the aircraft cabin. Please ensure such items are packed into your check-in luggage. There are restrictions regarding the carrying onboard of liquids, aerosols and gels.
- No item, including duty-free, greater than 100ml is permitted and must be shown in a clear plastic bag at the security screening point. Any charges for excess luggage will be at the passenger's expense and payable upon check-in.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Specialised Travel does not accept any responsibility for any act or omission causing loss or injury to persons or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of the principals (the airline, hotel, tour operator, coach company or service provider) providing any facilities or services described in the tour package.
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