Day 1: Australia - 🛫 - Tokyo

Depart Australia today on your overnight flight to Tokyo.

Day 2: Tokyo

Welcome to Japan! Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a Webjet representative will meet you as you exit the arrivals hall and transfer you to your hotel. Your flight will arrive in Tokyo early in morning in most cases. Check-in time is 1600PM. Your bags may be left at the hotel allowing you to explore Tokyo or get your first taste of true Japanese food.

Tokyo, Japan’s bustling capital, mixes the ultramodern and the traditional, from neonlit skyscrapers and anime shops to cherry trees and temples. The opulent Meiji Shinto Shrine is known for its towering gate and surrounding forests. The Imperial Palace sits amid sprawling public gardens. The city is famed for its vibrant food scene, and its Shibuya and Harajuku districts are the heart of its trendy teen fashion scene. 

Please note: check-in time in Japan is 16:00pm. You may leave your luggage at the hotel and begin exploring Tokyo if your room is not ready.

Hotel: Hotel Villa Fontein Tokyo (or similar)

Day 3: Tokyo (B)

Today after breakfast we make our way to the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Later, stroll through the Asakusa Kannon Temple one of Tokyo’s most colourful and popular temples before browsing for souvenirs at Nakamise Shopping Street. This afternoon, relax on a Sumida River cruise before arriving at Hama-Rikyu, a beautiful landscape garden in central Tokyo featuring seawater ponds which change level with the tides, and a teahouse on an island where visitors can rest and enjoy the scenery. Your last stop today is Shinjuku Municipal Observation Building for panoramic views of Tokyo before heading to your hotel. The rest of the evening is then free to get to know Tokyo at your own pace.

Hotel: Hotel Villa Fontein Tokyo (or similar)
Day 4: Tokyo - Mt Fuji - Nagoya (B)

Today we leave Tokyo behind us and make our way towards the Mount Fuji area for a cruise on Lake Ashinoko. Lake Ashinoko was formed in the caldera of Mount Hakone after the volcano’s last eruption 3000 years ago. Today, the lake with Mount Fuji in the background is the symbol of Hakone. The lake's shores are mostly undeveloped except for small towns in the east and north and a couple of lakeside. Later, we visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, Continue your tour with a visit to the Mount Fuji 5th Station, which at 2300 meters above sea level, offers a commanding view of the Fuji Five Lakes area below. After we continue our drive to Nagoya for our overnight stop.

Hotel: Hotel APA Nagoya Sakae (or similar)

Day 5: Nagoya - Kyoto - Osaka (B)

This morning we continue our journey along the southern coast of Japan’s Honshu Island before arriving in the jewel of Japan, Kyoto. On arrival we visit Nijo Castle, the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate and is designated a UNESCO world heritage site. It is then on to Kinkakuji, commonly known as the Golden Pavilion. A Zen temple and World Heritage site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai and Zen. We finish with a visit to the Togetsu Bridge, the landmark of Western Kyoto’s Arashiyama District for over four hundred years. We then continue our journey to Japan’s second largest city, Osaka.

Hotel: Hotel Mystays Shinosaka (or similar)

Optional: Today you have the option of experience one of the 20th centuries greatest technological achievements, the Bullet Train, known locally has the Shinkansen. The journey takes approximately half and hour and allows you extra time in Kyoto. The coach will drop you at Nagoya station and 2nd Class Shinkansen tickets are included. On arrival you have the option of exploring Kyoto at your own leisure. The coach will then collect you approximately 2 hours after arriving in Kyoto to begin the sightseeing listed above.
Day 6: Osaka — Kyoto — Nara — Osaka (B)

This morning we make the short drive back to begin our second day exploring Kyoto’s treasures. We begin with the UNESCO World Heritage Kiyomizu-dera Temple and drink to your fortune from the streams of the Otowa Waterfall. The water is said to have a different benefit, namely to cause longevity, success at school and a fortunate love life. The Kiyomizu-dera Temple is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan and has spectacular views over Kyoto. We then continue to the town of Nara and visit the Todaiji Temple, one of Japan's most famous temples. The massive building houses one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). The 15 meters tall, seated Buddha represents Vairocana and is flanked by two Bodhisattvas. Along the approach to Todaiji stands the Nandaimon Gate, a large wooden gate watched over by two fierce looking statues. Representing the Nio Guardian Kings, the statues are designated national treasures together with the gate itself. After the Todaiji Temple we wander back through Nara Park, home to hundreds of freely roaming deer. Considered in Shinto to be messengers of the gods, Nara's nearly 1200 deer have become a symbol of the city. On our return to Osaka, we visit the famous Osaka Castle. Built in 1583, the castle is an outstanding representation of Japan's feudal period. After Osaka Castle we continue on to the Floating Garden Observatory for 360 degree views of Osaka before returning to the hotel.

Hotel: Hotel Mystays Shinosaka (or similar)

Day 7: Osaka - Hiroshima (B)

After breakfast we make the trip to the moving city of Hiroshima. Largely destroyed when the first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the city became known worldwide for this unenviable distinction. On arrival begin with a tour of the important historical features of the city. We begin with the Peace Memorial Park and Atomic Bomb Museum, which commemorates the victims of the atomic bomb used in WWII. Later, we visit the Shukkeien Landscape Garden, which dates back to 1620. Being a short walk from Ground zero of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima, Shukkei-en suffered extensive damage, and then became a refuge for victims of the war. After renovations, it reopened in 1951.
Hotel: Hotel APA Hiroshima (or similar)

Please note: This is a typical Japanese hotel, very comfortable, however rooms are much smaller than western standards.

Day 8: Hiroshima – Himeji – Osaka (B)

This morning is free at leisure before we leave Hiroshima and make our way back to Osaka. Enroute, we stop in Himeji to visit the castle. The castle is regarded as the finest surviving example of prototypical Japanese castle architecture, comprising a network of 83 buildings with advanced defensive systems from the feudal period. It was registered in 1993 as one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country. Along with Matsumoto Castle and Kumamoto Castle, Himeji Castle is considered one of Japan’s three premier castles. Here, learn about the castle’s role in history and explore the beautiful grounds of the complex with an in-depth tour. We then continue our drive to Osaka where the rest of the evening is free at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Shinosaka Washington (or similar)

Optional Tour: Miyajima & Itsukushima Shrine – Miyajima is noted as one of the nation’s "Scenic Trio" because of its breathtaking beauty and tranquil atmosphere. Here is located the famous Itsukushima Shrine, a temple renowned for its beautiful Japanese garden and stunning Golden Pavilion. Those wishing to visit Miyajima will be dropped at the Ferry Pier to head across to Miyajima. Once there you will have free time to explore Miyajima at your own pace before re-boarding the ferry back to Hiroshima to rejoin the group before heading to Himeji.

Day 9: Osaka - Australia (B)

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your homeward flight. We hope you have enjoyed Japan! Please note: Check-out is 10:00AM. You may leave your luggage at the hotel and enjoy Osaka if time allows prior to your flight departure time.

Day 10: Australia

Arrive home today.