



Cultural Treasures of Japan

April 22 — May 05, 2024 • 14 Days • 19 Meals



Highlights

Tokyo, Asakusa Sensoji Shrine, Ginza, Tea Ceremony, Hakone, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, *Kaiseki* Dinner & Maiko Show



DAY
1

Apr 22, 2024: Overnight Flight

Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

DAY
2

Apr 23, 2024: Tokyo, Japan - Tour Begins

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

DAY
3

Apr 24, 2024: Tokyo

Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial Palace. Then, experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. Later, walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. Later, amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

🍴 Included Meals

Breakfast
Dinner

DAY
4

Apr 25, 2024: Tokyo

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colorful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY
5

Apr 26, 2024: Tokyo - Hakone

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast
Dinner

DAY
6

Apr 27, 2024: Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Enjoy the local cuisine as we stop for lunch at a Soba noodle shop. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

DAY
7

Apr 28, 2024: Takayama

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY
8

Apr 29, 2024: Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Then, travel to the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast
Dinner

DAY
9

Apr 30, 2024: Kanazawa

More than 25 acres of absolute beauty await you today at *Kenroku-En* – Garden of Six Qualities. From the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the center of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY
10

May 01, 2024: Kanazawa - Kyoto

Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. For lunch, participate in a sushi making class and master the art of sushi making. This afternoon, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast
Lunch

DAY
11

May 02, 2024: Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train.


 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY
12

May 03, 2024: Kyoto

This morning, explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Move on to the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands on lesson.


 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY
13

May 04, 2024: Kyoto

Today, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special *kaiseki* farewell dinner and maiko show.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY
14

May 05, 2024: Kyoto - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

Essential Experiences

Try your hand at the centuries-old art of the Japanese tea ceremony, gold leaf decorating and stenciling.

Travel by the famous Shinkansen bullet train.

Explore the famous Ginza District, the first Western-style shopping district in Japan where modern and history blends.

Tour Manager

Peace of mind for our guests is our number one priority. When you're on tour with us, your only thoughts should be to immerse yourself in creating lifelong memories. Your Tour Manager is a destination expert on the people, places, history, and culture and ensures that you will have the best experience with us. Please utilize your Tour Manager's expertise for any concerns or questions you may have while on tour.

Currency

Your personal bank card may work at local ATM machines in the destination you are traveling to and would dispense local currency. Please contact your bank to determine if this option is available, that your PIN number will be accepted, to inform them that you are traveling and to determine if any charges apply for each transaction.

You may exchange your money at airports, banks, exchange bureaus, and at most hotels. In most cases, a commission charge will be assessed to exchange your money.

We recommend carrying only a few major credit cards. Credit card purchases often provide an extra guarantee on your purchase (check with your specific credit card company for details and fees). It is advisable to contact any credit card company you intend utilizing while on tour before you depart to notify them where you will be traveling, to avoid any rejection of services.

The currency in Japan is the Yen. Not every place accepts credit cards, but Japan is very accustomed to breaking larger bills in shops and stores. Small currency may be needed for shopping at local markets.

If optional tours are made available to purchase, please note that credit cards must have an expiration date of greater than 30 days from the start of the tour. It is common and recommended to exchange money at the airport, as there is no opportunity to stop at a bank. Most hotels do not have the best rate compared to the airport.

Cultural Treasures of Japan with Collette Tours

Presented by Stefan's "Join the Fun" & Odyssey Travel

Package with Airfare Includes:

- ✓ Overnight Car Parking (14) days in Ormond & Viera
- ✓ Shuttle Transportation to Orlando International Airport r/t
- ✓ **Airfare** Round trip with (1) Suitcase and (1) carry on per person r/t
- ✓ (13) Night Land Tour with Collette
- ✓ (19) Meals
- ✓ Gratuity to your Collette Escorted Tour Guide and Professional Driver
- ✓ Admission to sightseeing and Attractions for (14) Days, see above-
- ✓ **Guest in The Villages or Jacksonville- Parking & Shuttle from your City**

● **\$7,699 per person based on a double**

● **\$8,599 SOLO Traveler**

● **\$2000 Non – Refundable Deposit to Secure your space**



*Travel Protection Insurance Recommended Questions and to

Book this Group Package, Call Stefan "Join the Fun" Tours- **386-235-3443**