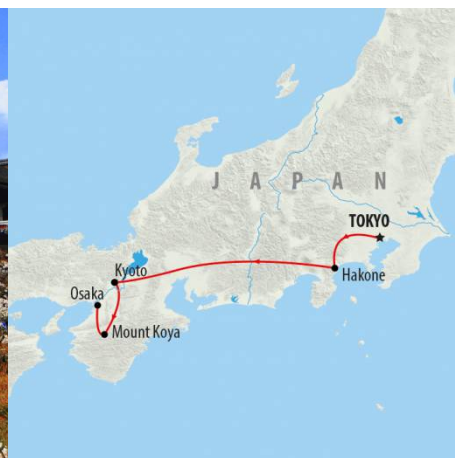


Geisha & Gyoza

8 days | Tokyo to Osaka



Private Tour: Get lost in the organised chaos of Tokyo, catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji in Hakone National Park, discover ancient arts, temples and shrines in Kyoto, make your way to holy Mount Koya and discover buzzing Osaka after dark on this classic private tour in Japan.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Tokyo - Choose from exploring the historic district of Asakusa, cruising the Sumida River, strolling through Hamarikyu Gardens, discovering the fashion hub of Harajuku and taking in the bright lights of the business district of Shinjuku
- Kyoto - Choose from visiting the Golden Pavillion zen temple of Kinakakuji, Kiyomizu Dera Temple, Higashiyama historic district, Fushimi Inari Shrine and Gion Geisha district
- Mount Koya - Enjoy a slower pace of life and explore temples and monasteries on this holy mountain
- Hakone - Explore the Hakone National Park on mountain bus, railway, cable car or funicular railway; cruise across Lake Ashi and admire views of Mount Fuji

- Osaka - Choose from visiting the city aquarium, riding one of the big ferris wheels, exploring Osaka Castle and sampling the city's nightlife

What's Included

- Full day of guided sightseeing in Kyoto
- 7 breakfasts, 2 dinner
- 7 nights accommodation in 3 star hotels and Ryokans. 4 and 5 star options are also available
- Arrival transfer via shared shuttle bus from Tokyo Airport
- Departure transfer via shared shuttle bus to Osaka Airport
- Full day of guided sightseeing in Tokyo
- IC Transport Card
- 2 day Hakone Freepass
- Train from Ueno to Odawara
- Train from Odawara to Kyoto
- 3 day Kansai Thru Pass
- Train from Kawaramachi to Mount Koya

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Entrance fees not listed in inclusions (for shrines, temples, museums etc.), budget approx \$45 - \$60
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Japan!

Welcome to Tokyo! You will be met upon arrival at Tokyo Narita Airport and escorted by shuttle bus to your hotel in the city. Please note that as other people will be in the same bus there may be a few stops before you arrive at your hotel (maximum of 3 other stops). Journey time is around 2 hours and this is a comfortable and easy way to make today's transfer.

Look out for some great views as you ride the elevated highways into town, and spend the rest of the day exploring the city at your own leisure. With its huge skyscrapers, underpasses, overpasses and crowds of pedestrians, Tokyo may not seem the most attractive city on the surface, but the city has a vibrant charm all of its own. The street level detail is what makes Tokyo such an incredibly interesting place to explore and at every turn you will be met with an array of sights, sounds and smells to enliven the senses. **Overnight - Tokyo**

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

updated on 14-09-2019 06:31:55

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this Itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Geisha & Gyoza

Day 2 : Sightseeing in Tokyo



Today enjoy a full day of guided sightseeing led by a local guide, offering a perfect introduction to the city. Travelling by public transport, as Tokyoites do, you will get a real feel for city life and your guide will help you discover aspects of Tokyo that you would not be able to find on your own. Rather than a fixed itinerary, you can enjoy the flexibility of seeing and doing exactly what you want.

Your guide will come to your hotel at around 9:00 AM (or any time you choose) to meet you and your day will proceed from there. Rather than fix an itinerary in advance we like to give you the flexibility to see and do what takes your fancy. This means you will need to pay for your entrance fees on the day. You will also need to cover your local transport and that of the guide.

As a suggestion, you can start the day by visiting Asakusa, Tokyo's historic district. Here you can browse the bustling market place of Nakamise Dori, visit the famous Senso-ji Temple and explore the backstreets lined with Kabuki theatres, rustic bars and restaurants. From Asakusa you can take a river cruise on the Sumida River to the Hamarikyu Gardens, a peaceful oasis of greenery and exquisite Japanese aesthetics in the heart of a bustling city.

A short train journey from here can take you to Harajuku, the focal point for Tokyo's teen culture where you will find teenagers hanging out wearing quirky and extreme fashions. Nearby you can also find Meiji Jingu, one of the most famous and important shrines in Tokyo. Then why not end the day surrounded by the bright lights of Shinjuku, Tokyo's main business and entertainment district. Spend the rest of the evening discovering the city on your own.

Your day of guiding will finish at around 5:00 PM with the guide either dropping you back at your hotel or anywhere else in the city you wish to spend the evening. **Overnight - Tokyo (B)**

Day 3 : Tokyo to Hakone

Tokyo - Hakone - breakfast. This morning make your way to Tokyo station where you will get the train to Odawara station, the access point for the Hakone National Park. From Ueno station you will be taking a JR Yamanote Line train to Tokyo station. The journey takes under 10 minutes and trains leave every 5 minutes. From Tokyo station you will be riding on the Shinkansen for the 35 minute journey on to Odawara station, the access point for the Hakone National Park. We will be providing reserved seat tickets for this leg of your journey - sit back and relax!

Upon arrival at Odawara you will start using your 2 Day Hakone Freepass. The pass is valid for two days from today and entitles you to unlimited use of 6 different forms of transport in the Hakone region. These include the mountain buses and railway, one of the longest cable cars in Japan and a funicular railway as well as a pirate ship which cruises across Lake Ashi! These all criss cross the region making it easy to explore and enjoy the surroundings as well as some of the many top quality art museums.

The pass also gives you small discounts at many attractions in the area so be sure to show your pass when purchasing tickets. And of course, if you are lucky with the weather, you will be rewarded with stunning views of Mount Fuji. From Odawara Station you will use your Hakone Freepass to take the bus up into the mountains of Hakone and on to your accommodation, the Ichinoyu Honkan. The road twists and turns as you head higher passing through several small villages en route. Spend the day exploring the region at your own pace.

Note: As of June 2019 the Hakone Ropeway has been temporarily suspended.

Due to increased volcanic activity in the area, the volcanic rating for Owakudani valley has been raised from Level 1 to Level 2. Sadly,

because of this, the Hakone Ropeway has been closed entirely for the time being. While this does mean the complete sightseeing loop cannot now include the Owakudani ropeway, replacement buses will allow clients to still get around this section of the loop easily. The fee for the replacement buses is covered within the Hakone Pass.

When this happened in 2015 the ropeway was closed for several months, this note will remain within these Trip Notes until the Ropeway suspension has been lifted.

For further information, please see:

<https://www.hakoneropeway.co.jp/foreign/en/>

<https://www.hakonenavi.jp/international/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/en.pdf>

Overnight - Hakone (B, D)

Day 4 : Hakone to Kyoto



Hakone - Kyoto - breakfast. Today you will travel to Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital and the cultural centre of the nation. From Odawara the journey to Kyoto will see you racing down Japan's eastern seaboard by Shinkansen and takes 2 hours 10 minutes. Kyoto is one of the most culturally rich cities in Asia. Home to 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, over 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines, this ancient city showcases the heart and soul of traditional Japan. Spend the rest of the day at your own leisure exploring the city. **Overnight - Kyoto (B)**

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Geisha & Gyoza

Day 5 : Sightseeing in Kyoto



Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Kyoto, again travelling by public transport with a private guide. Your guide will come to your accommodation at around 9:00 AM and take you on tour that will encompass some of the more famous sights but also some lesser known places of interest. Today there will be no fixed itinerary and entrance fees and transport will be paid on the day (you'll also have to cover the guide's transport). This is to give you the maximum flexibility to enjoy each place in your own time.

With no fixed itinerary and a knowledgeable local at your side, you will be set for a great day in this amazing city and are sure to discover things you might otherwise miss. You may want to start your day at Kinkakuji - Kyoto's famous Golden Pavilion zen temple which is decorated with gold leaf and stands over a tranquil pond. From Kinkakuji in the north of the city you can then head to Kiyomizu Dera Temple in the east. This impressive wooden structure is perched on a hillside surrounded by woodland and looks out across the city.

The afternoon could be spent at Fushimi Inari Shrine in the south of the city. This shrine's appeal is the thousands of red torii gates which create a network of pathways through the wooded forests of Mt Inari, linking the various buildings of the shrine together. You may want your guide to finish the day of sightseeing by taking you to the Gion Geisha District where if you are lucky you will be able to see a Geisha shuffling through the streets between appointments.

Your day of guiding will finish at around 5:00pm either back at your accommodation or anywhere else in the city you wish to spend the evening.

Overnight - Kyoto (B)

Day 6 : Kyoto to Mount Koya

Kyoto - Mount Koya - breakfast. Today's journey will get underway from Kawaramachi Station. This is conveniently located just a few of minutes walk up the road from your hotel. You will start using your Kansai Thru Pass with this journey on the Hankyu Line to Umeda Station in Osaka. You will then need to make the short transfer by subway across town to Nanba Station from where all trains to Mt. Koya depart.

Valid for 3 days, your package includes the Kansai Thru Pass which covers all the non-JR transport in the Kansai area. This includes subways, buses and several private railway lines covering the entire region

The journey on from Nanba to Mt. Koya will see you riding the Nankai Line express train. As this journey is covered by the Kansai Passes you can travel on any train. We will be providing recommended departures for you though. There is also a reserved seat express train for which a small supplement (760 yen) is payable on the train. The train takes you out through the suburbs of Osaka into the countryside of Wakayama before you finally roll into Gokurakubashi Station; the very end of the line. The final stage of your journey will see you taking the Koya Cable Car, a funicular pull-up railway which will haul you up to the mountain top plateau. Total travel time from Kyoto will be in the region of 3h30 including transfer time in Umeda and at Nanba.

To get to your accommodation in the main village you can either use your Thru Pass and take the bus or alternatively hop in a taxi for the 7 minute ride.

Mount Koya is one of the holiest mountains in all of Japan, with the plateau at the top being home to more than 100 temples and monasteries. Koya-san is the headquarters of the Shingon sect, an esoteric school of Buddhism which has over ten million members and 4,000 temples in Japan. There has been a religious community here since 816 when it was founded by a monk named Kukai after he returned from studying for two years in China. Koya is a very peaceful

and beautiful wooded area and some great walking is also available. Spend the rest of the day soaking up the atmosphere in this magical place. **Overnight - Mount Koya (B, D)**

Day 7 : Mount Koya to Osaka



Mount Koya - Osaka - breakfast. This morning you will take the train from Koya-san to Osaka Nanba station (on the Nankai line), the journey takes about 2 hours.

Japan's second city, Osaka is an extremely vibrant and lively place to stay. The city aquarium is world class and you cannot stay in Osaka without taking a ride on one of the city's several giant big wheels, perhaps the most dramatic of which is perched on top of the Hep 5 department store in the Umeda district of the city - just don't look down if you are afraid of heights! Osaka Castle is well worth a visit despite being a reconstruction as the original was burnt down during the firebombing at the end of World War Two and you will find a variety of very interesting museums scattered throughout the city.

After dark Osaka really comes alive, and a walk through the bright lights of the Nanba district is a great way to take in the atmosphere, with some great people-watching opportunities. With literally thousands of restaurants, bars and entertainment spots to choose from, Osaka is perfect for a big night out, some hearty local food and the chance to let your hair down.

Overnight - Osaka (B)

Day 8 : Goodbye Japan!

Today your adventure in Japan comes to an end. A departure transfer by shuttle bus will take you to Kansai Airport for your onward travel. **Overnight - Osaka (B)**

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Geisha & Gyoza

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Sunroute Plaza Shinjuku

Renovated in 2007, the chic Sunroute Plaza Shinjuku offers contemporary accommodation in Japan's capital. Guest rooms are tastefully furnished in a modern style with comfortable amenities. The hotel also offers a number of excellent dining options including the Villazza trattoria style restaurant and the Bar Ku Kon Shinjuku dining experience! Why not sip on a delicious cocktail by the crackling fire - a great way to spend the evening! Located in the west of the city - a short walk from Shinjuku train station.



Ichinoyu Honkan

Ichinoyu Honkan is rich in history dating back to 1630. The Ichinoyu holds true to the traditional values of service for which it is famed. The Ichinoyu has large communal baths for you to enjoy. The ryokan also has its own reasonably priced bar which is open from 3pm to midnight and is a great place in which to relax. All in all, the Ichinoyu Honkan is a great place to stay and an establishment with a significant history. Your stay includes breakfast and dinner both served in the hotel restaurant.



Hotel Vista Premio

Nestled in the heart of Kyoto just a short walk from the Gion District, the Hotel Vista Premio offers travellers a wonderful combination of comfort and convenience. Guest rooms are contemporary in style with a few traditional aesthetic Japanese touches and all feature ensuite facilities with deep soaking bathtubs. The hotel benefits from two restaurants serving both local and international cuisine and complimentary WiFi is available in public areas.



Eko-In

Housed within a 1000 year-old Buddhist temple, Eko-in offers travellers a truly authentic Japanese experience. Set within beautiful garden grounds, the guest rooms here feature tatami-mat flooring, futon bedding and paper sliding doors, while bathroom facilities are shared. During their stay guests can join the Buddhist morning services, partake in group meditation, learn how to write with brush and ink on scrolls, or witness the goma fire ritual. The surrounding landscapes are a dream for walking and hiking enthusiasts.



Cross Hotel

The Cross Hotel is a smart hotel located on Dotombori, one of the most famous and lively streets in all of Japan never mind just Osaka. The hotel has been recently refurbished in a sleek, modern design, giving it something of a boutique feel. Rooms are well designed and generously sized. The hotel is well located near a plethora

of restaurants and bars in the surrounding streets.



Transportation

When travelling with us to Japan on a Private Tour you will be met upon arrival at the airport and escorted by shuttle bus to your start hotel. While our tours do include a day of guided sightseeing in Tokyo and Kyoto, the remainder of your tour is independently led, meaning you will be responsible for getting from place to place.

Thankfully transportation in Japan is modern, punctual and easy to use. And to help you get started you will be provided with various travel vouchers which will cover most of the journeys you will make during your stay in Japan. These will then need to be exchanged for actual tickets upon your arrival.

Exchanging your vouchers

You will need to exchange the vouchers for actual tickets after your arrival in Japan. We recommend making the exchange at a mainline station in Tokyo. Instructions on how and where to do this will be in the Japan Rail Pass pamphlet you will be provided with. Note that you will need to show your passport when you make the exchange, and when you make the exchange you will be asked to state the date you wish to start using the passes.

Please note that many ticket offices do not open until 9 or 10am, so be sure to make the exchange in advance if you plan on making an early start. Plus remember to check your Japan Rail Pass pamphlet you will receive with the vouchers for specific ticket office opening hours.

Reserving a seat for your journey

You can make seat reservations for no extra charge using your Japan Rail ticket – simply apply at any JR ticket office or at the time you make the exchange. You can reserve seats whenever you like; days in advance, the day before each journey; even just turn up at the station a few minutes before the train departs

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Geisha & Gyoza

and (subject to availability) you can reserve seats. If you like to be very organised you can even make all your seat reservations right at the start of your trip. You will not be penalised if you end up not using a reservation, though it is polite to turn the reservation in at a ticket office so that other people can use those seats. Alternatively you can just turn up and travel in the unreserved seats carriage of any JR train.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Food

One of the best things about visiting any country is sampling its cuisine and during your stay in Japan you'll probably be wishing to do just that. Many Japanese restaurants specialise in one particular type of food. Sushi is of course the most famous dish, but Japanese food does not stop with raw fish; other specialities include teriyaki (marinated beef/chicken/fish seared on a hot plate), sukiyaki (thin slices of beef, bean curd and vegetables cooked in soy sauce and then dipped in egg), and tempura (deep fried sea-food and vegetables).

If everything so far sounds a bit meat and fish orientated don't be alarmed - there are vegetarian options in Japan. Try the wonderful zaru soba (buck-wheat noodles served cold), a bowl of Udon (thicker noodles) in a mountain vegetable soup, tofu steak or a vegetable okonomiyaki (savoury pancake). If you are feeling adventurous you could try natto, this is a sticky and slightly smelly concoction made of fermented soya beans.

If you want a more general selection, then the best place to go is an Izakaya (Japanese pub) where you will find an extensive and pretty cheap choice of food and drink. Izakaya often offer tabehodai or nomihodai - for a set price you get an hour or two to eat or drink as much as you like. Choosing exactly what to eat is made easier by well illustrated menus or plastic food displays at the doorway - just point and see what you get. In major cities you will also find plenty of Western-style restaurants.

Each region of Japan also has its own speciality foods, unique to or particularly

famous in that one area of the country. These are nearly always made from locally produced ingredients.

Note: If you are interested in taking part in a cooking class whilst in Japan, this should be arranged prior to travel as its very unlikely you'll be able to join a class with only a few days notice.

Rooming Arrangements

Most hotels in Japan offer single rooms with one bed and twin share/ double rooms fitted with two single beds. There is only ever a very small inventory of double rooms with one large bed. If you have requested a double room with one large bed we will always request this particular rooming configuration with the hotel, though it is not guaranteed and you may often be accommodated in a twin share. Further triple share rooms and family suites are very hard to come by.

If travelling on our Signature Tours, we most often stay in conveniently located hotels in the city. All rooms in the heart of the city are small, with twin share rooms measuring no more than 12.5sqm and a Single room measuring no more than 10sqm. If travelling with large suitcases you will find it difficult to have both suitcases open at once without utilising the space on your bed but this is the price to pay for a convenient location.

Packing

One medium sized suitcase is recommended for travel around Japan and you will also want to pack a small backpack or day pack for daily use. This small back pack will also come in use when your main suitcase has been forwarded ahead, such as when visiting Lake Kawaguchi on our groups tours or when travelling from Kanazawa to Kyoto on our Cherry Blossom tour.

Make sure you pack comfortable shoes as an extended time will be spent on the feet - new high heels are not such a smart way to do this kind of trip! Also shoes will often be taken off and put back on, so something that is easy to put on and take off is best!

Non-Smoking Rooms

Japan trails behind the western world in regards to its anti-smoking laws. Although it's uncommon to see Japanese people walking along the street smoking, as this is culturally frowned upon smoking is still permitted in bars, some restaurants and hotels. It is becoming more common for hotels offer an indoor smoking room rather than allowing smoking throughout the property, though many hotels still only have a small inventory of non-smoking rooms. Where possible we do book as many non-smoking rooms as we can, though we cannot guarantee that in each city a non-smoking room will be offered. It often is, but again this cannot be guaranteed.

The restaurants we do book are non-smoking and if heading out to a bar we will reserve a spot in the non-smoking section of the bar. If you are extremely sensitive to cigarette smoke you may wish to reconsider travelling on one of our group tours but instead book a tailor-made holiday with us where we be able to select small high-end boutique properties that operate a 100% no smoking policy.

Own arrangements

If you have made your own arrangements for accommodation, trains, planes or further sightseeing etc. independent of your holiday with us, our guides are more than happy to offer general information about your new adventure and point you in the right direction. This said, our guides are unable to become involved in your arrangements such as calling your hotel, speaking on your behalf, changing your reservation, escorting you to your new location as it puts them in a difficult situation if things do not go to plan.

Japan Country Guide

Visas

UK, AUS, NZ, USA and CAN passport holders do not require a visa at present to enter Japan for touristic purposes for a stay of up to 90 days.

South African passport holders can obtain a visa prior to arrival for touristic purposes, for a stay of up to 90 days.

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Geisha & Gyoza

A full passport with two full blank pages and at least 6 months validity beyond date of exit from Japan upon entrance is essential. Please check your personal visa requirements with your embassy if you are from another country.

Please double-check all visa requirements with the Japan embassy at least one month before travel as the above is intended as a guide.

Please Note: Visa information is subject to change. Contact your nearest Japanese Embassy for the most up to date information. www.onthegotours.com/Japan/Visas

Fitness & Tour Transportation

We utilise public transportation in Japan because it's modern, punctual and easy to use. Japan's bullet trains run at speeds of up to 320km/h so they're undoubtedly the quickest way to get around the country. Additionally, we use buses, trains and our trusted feet for sightseeing within the cities. This provides a unique insight to how the locals do it, and also means that we avoid heavy traffic and delays. We will walk an average of 3.5 – 9km each day, with steps, slopes and often uneven ground at sites.

Please note also that there may be times when you may not get a seat and will need to stand for the duration of travel and that you will be required to carry your own luggage at stations.

With the above in mind, it makes a lot of sense to spend time getting additional exercise in preparation for your holiday and wearing suitable footwear whilst on our Japan tours.

Is This Holiday For You?

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed

and languages are different from one region to the next.

Japan is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you'll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Climate

Weather conditions vary in Japan depending on location and time of year. Typically summers are hot and humid, whilst winters are significantly colder - especially in the mountains, with a dry climate and light snowfall. Spring and Autumn offer warm days and cool nights, making this a wonderful time to explore the highlights of Japan. June is considered the rainy season with hot and muggy weather. Temperatures do vary depending on the region, so be sure to check in advance when travelling to the far north or far south of Japan.

Health

While Japan is considered safe make sure you are up to date on routine vaccinations; it is also recommended to be vaccinated for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Japanese B Encephalitis.

Japan does have mosquitoes in the summer months, but Malaria is not a problem in Japan. If you are allergic to bites from mosquitoes please take appropriate precautions; anti-mosquito sprays and creams are widely available in Japan or you could bring your own from home.

Some medication including the stimulant dexamphetamine (used to treat ADHD) and pseudoephedrine (found in some cold and flu tablets) is banned. There are strict rules on the import of medication, and what can be brought into the country for personal use, check if your medication is legal and find out if any quantity restrictions or certification requirements apply. Consult your doctor about alternatives well in advance of travel.

Water is safe to drink in all areas of Japan.

Currency

The official currency in Japan is Japanese Yen (JPY).

Most major currencies can be exchanged at the airport. Please bring JPY with you from home or exchange your preferred currency to JPY at the airport. Traveller's cheques can be exchanged in major banks, larger hotels and some duty free shops. While credit cards are becoming increasingly popular in Japan, they are not commonly used for making purchases as in western countries so you are best to pay in cash where possible.

Avoid cash machines at banks as these do not normally accept foreign-issued cards. Instead use the Post Office cash machines from which you will be able to take out money using Visa cards, MasterCard, Cirrus or Maestro. Note that Post Offices may only be open during office hours Mon to Fri. Convenience store chain 7-Eleven will have ATMs in almost all of its stores which will accept most foreign-issued credit and debit cards.

Japan is a mainly cash using country, so it is recommended to bring a healthy amount of cash with you to get started (around JPY 50,000), not USD or other currencies which are only easily changeable at the airport. While credit card usage is increasing, be prepared to use cash.

Time & Voltage

Time: Japan is 9 hours ahead of GMT and does not observe daylight savings.

Voltage: In Japan the standard voltage is different from other regions of the world at 100V, and power outlets accept a flat 2-pin plug (similar to North American outlets). To cover all bases, it is best to pack an international travel adaptor!

Geisha & Gyoza - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.