**TRIP NOTES**

**Land of the Samurai**

12 days | Tokyo to Osaka

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**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**

- Tokyo - Sensoji Temple district and temple, Harajuku, Takeshita Street, Meiji Shrine and Shibuya Crossing
- Kamakura - Big Buddha Statue, Hokokuji Zen Temple and the Bamboo Forest with its delightful village atmosphere. Opt to take part in a traditional tea ceremony
- Lake Kawaguchi located within Fuji Hakone Izu National Park - Spectacular mountain scenery and views of famed Mt Fuji
- Staying in a ryokan - Sampling Japanese hospitality, bathing in natural hot springs, wearing a Samue (casual Kimono) and sleeping on a futon
- Kyoto - UNESCO Listed Nijo Castle, Sanjusagen-do Temple with its 1000 life-like statues and Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Temple)
- Kyoto - Walking tour of the renowned Geisha district (Gion), with its ancient cobbled streets, streams, bridges and quaint tea houses and the opportunity to see Geisha and Maiko en route to their next engagement
- UNESCO Listed Himeji Castle - The towering 6 story structure is the best preserved and largest of all the castles in Japan
- Hiroshima - Peace Park, Peace Memorial Museum, UNESCO Listed A-Bomb Dome and Children’s Peace Monument (with thousands of paper cranes from children around the world)
- Miyajima Island with its UNESCO Listed iconic Red Torii Gate (Itsukushima shrine) standing in the sea. Cable to the top of Mt Misen - The highest peak on Miyajima for spectacular views of the Seto Inland Sea, some 150 islands and Hiroshima

**What’s Included**

- 7 breakfasts and 1 Japanese dinner at the Lake Kawaguchi ryokan
- 11 nights 3 star accommodation (including 1 night at a traditional ryokan (Japanese Inn))
- Guided sightseeing and walking tours in Tokyo, Kamakura, Lake Kawaguchi, Kyoto, Himeji, Hiroshima and Miyajima Island
- Lake Kawaguchi and Mt Fuji - Kachikachi-yama Ropeway and Observatory. For tours staying at Lake Kawaguchi between 14 Apr – 28 May each year we’ll visit to the Fuji Shibazakura (Moss Phlox) Festival with Mt Fuji in the distance
- Ferry to Miyajima Island and cable car to the top of Mt Misen
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Japanese tour guide until day 10
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 (by train) from Narita or Haneda International Airport
- Departure transfer on day 12 (unescorted) - by train or bus from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airports (ITM and KIX)
- All transportation - buses, trains and rail passes (including Suica Swipe Card and Japan Rail Pass)
- Baggage forwarding service from Tokyo to Kyoto (one bag per person)
- Maximum Group size: 16 persons

**What’s Not Included**

- Entrance Fees: USD$40-50pp, paid locally in local currency
- International flights and visa
- If you are opting to pay the single supplement, allowing you the privacy of your own room on this tour, a single room will be provided for all nights with the exception of day 5 (at Lake Kawaguchi), where single rooms are not available. For
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this night you will be matched up with a fellow tour member of the same gender

• Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD$3-5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

Day 2 : Toyko - Senjoji Temple District, Harajuku & Shibuya

Today we explore the capital. Taking the subway to Asakusa, we’ll visit the lively Sensoji Temple District, which is home to Tokyo’s first temple and scores of interesting souvenir and craft stalls. In the afternoon we’ll head to Harajuku, which is a magnet for young and fashionable Tokyoites with its hip shops and cafes. Here, we’ll also visit the impressive Meiji Shrine where the emperor Meiji and his wife are enshrined. Yoyogi Park is based beside the shrine and is a popular hangout for locals on Sundays with bands playing, drum circles, dancers and busking, if you are interested.

The last stop of the day is the Shibuya Crossing - regarded as one of the busiest intersection in the world. The famed junction has no less than 7 pedestrian crossings and when the traffic lights turn red a wave of pedestrians, up to a 1000 at once, converge onto the intersection from every direction. Here we’ll grab a coffee or cold drink and rest our weary feet at the Starbucks, which offers us a second floor vantage point, located directly opposite the crossing and look down upon the exciting spectacle, guaranteed to give that ‘I’m in Tokyo feeling’.

This evening offers free time, though if travelling in January, May and September (tonight or any other night you are in Tokyo) you might like spend the evening watching a Sumo tournament. There are three professional Sumo tournaments held in Tokyo each year with each tournament lasting 15 days with a number of matches held throughout the day. If interested, you should book tickets independently (we cannot book these on your behalf) in advance as on the day of a match only a few balcony seats are held back for same-day sale (again, these you must independently organise).

Overnight - Tokyo

Day 3 : Kamakura - Big Buddha

Tokyo - Kamakura - Tokyo. This morning we board the train for our day trip to Kamakura, Japan’s first feudal capital, which is just an hour from Tokyo. Kamakura is a popular seaside location with a quaint village life feel and some stunning Zen temples. We’ll visit the iconic bronze Big Buddha and the Zen Temple of Hokokuji with its beautiful bamboo garden. Here you can drink tea, learn about the tea ceremony and enjoy the laid back atmosphere from the tea house before walking the cobbled shopping district - for great locally made items before returning to Japan’s bustling capital for the night. Tonight, we organise a Shabu Shubu (a traditional Japanese hot pot meal) if the majority of the group are interested, paid locally.

Average kilometres walked today: 3.5km

Overnight - Tokyo

Day 4 : Tokyo Edo Museum & time to explore

Today, we enjoy a guided tour of the Tokyo Edo Museum which focuses on the lifestyle and culture experienced by Tokyoites over the city’s 400-year history. The museum houses some of the city’s best original artefacts and replicas of Edo-era buildings and landmarks, along with several large-scale models. The remainder of the day offers free time for you further explore the city.

Average kilometres walked today: 5km

Overnight - Tokyo
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Day 5 : Mt Fuji & Lake Kawaguchiko

Tokyo - Lake Kawaguchi. This morning we travel by highway (with luggage forwarding) to Lake Kawaguchi, located in the Fuji Hakone Izu National Park. Our base is Lake Kawaguchi which boasts breathtaking scenery and unparalleled views of a snow-capped Mt Fuji most of the year. Whilst in the area we’ll travel on the Mount Fuji Panoramic Ropeway and visit the observatory. For tours staying at Lake Kawaguchi between 15 Apr – 28 May each year we’ll visit the Springtime Fuji Shibazakura (Phlox Moss) Festival, held at Motosu Lake, where the landscape is covered in a vibrant, hot pink moss with Fuji as the backdrop. Tonight, we stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan. At the ryokan, we’ll be served a traditional Japanese dinner and you can take a relaxing dip in the natural hot spring baths.

Note: If you have booked a single room with us, we have not included the cost of you having a single room at our ryokan in Lake Kawaguchi. Ryokans by their very nature don’t offer single rooms so tonight, and tonight only you will be matched up with a fellow traveller of the same gender for the evening.

Average kilometres walked today: 5.5km
Overnight - Lake Kawaguchi (D)

Day 6 : Kyoto - 1000 statues of Kannon & the Geisha District

Lake Kawaguchi – Kyoto. The area has some great hiking trails and early this morning you might like to opt for a hike along the foreshores of the lake. After enjoying a Japanese breakfast, we travel by bus to Mishima, to connect to the bullet train to Kyoto - Japan’s ancient and cultural capital.

As one of the most culturally rich cities in Asia, Kyoto is home to an abundance of UNESCO World Heritage sites, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. Here, we enjoy a guided tour of Sanjusagen-do Temple famous for its statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The one thousand life-size statues of Kannon are made of Japanese cypress clad in gold leaf. They stand in 10 rows of 50, each hand crafted and slightly different from the next. Late this afternoon we head to Gion, for a walking tour of this famous Geisha District. After, you may wish to watch a cultural performance at Gion Corner Theatre where you’ll have the opportunity to watch a Maiko (apprentice Geisha) performing.

Average kilometres walked today: 6km
Overnight - Kyoto (B)

Day 7 : Kyoto - 1000 statues of Kannon & the Geisha District

Kyoto - Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion & free time

This morning we have a guided tour of Nijo Castle, one of the city’s most impressive UNESCO sites. Built by the first Tokugawa shogun in 1603, the exquisite Nijo Castle is a wonderful example of Momoyama architecture.

After, we visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) a stunning Zen Buddhist temple and part of the Historic Monuments of the Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. The top two floors of the monument are completely covered in gold leaf. Set upon a small lake with landscaped gardens the large completely gilt structure is as impressive as it is beautiful. Kinkakuji Temple continues to be one of Japan’s most visited temples. This afternoon offers free time for you to relax or to further discover the many sights of Kyoto at your own pace. Consider visiting Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its winding path lined by thousands of bright red torii gates. Just a short train ride away from the main Kyoto Station, this must-see sight is free to visit and is open 24 hours a day. You might also wish to hire a Kimono and walk the streets as many Japanese do or take part in a cooking lesson.

Average kilometres walked today: 3.5km
Overnight - Kyoto (B)

Day 8 : Himeji Castle & Hiroshima

Kyoto - Himeji - Hiroshima. We travel by bullet train to Hiroshima today, stopping en route at Himeji to visit the UNESCO Listed Himeji Castle, nicknamed the White Egret due to its colour and elegant shape. Himeji is Japan’s best preserved and largest castle, known for its maze-like defences. After taking in the panoramic views from the top of its 6 story watch tower there is time to stroll the local Saturday market which often takes place here, before taking the bullet train to Hiroshima.

Average kilometres walked today: 3.5km
Overnight - Hiroshima (D)
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If you like baseball, consider booking tickets to watch the Carp play. The Carp, Hiroshima’s beloved professional baseball players, play games at home between May - Oct at Mazda Stadium. We suggest you jump online and book seats in advance.

Luggage: Today we will travel with all our luggage from Kyoto to Hiroshima via Himeji, rather than forwarding our luggage and not having it arrive till tomorrow afternoon. Upon arrival at Himeji luggage will be stored at the lockers at the train station or at the bus station should all lockers at the station be full. Although the rate of crime in Japan is extremely low please keep all your valuable with you and do not store them in the locker. After touring Himeji, we’ll re-unite with our luggage and carry it with us aboard the bullet train to Hiroshima. We have allowed plenty of time at each transfer point to so that you will not be hurried along with heavy (hopefully not to heavy) luggage.

Average kilometres walked today: 7.5km Overnight - Hiroshima (B)

Day 9 : Miyajima Island & Red Torii Gate

Located off the coast of Hiroshima is Miyajima Island, one of Japan's most picturesque destinations. Today, we take the ferry out to the island and see the dramatic red ‘floating’ Torii Gate at the revered Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Listed Site. The iconic gate seems to float on the water but at low tide can be reached by foot. It stands 16 metres high and is made from camphor wood. As we explore the island we’ll see further Shinto shrines, towering pagodas and pavilions before soaking up the incredible views of the Seto Inland Sea, dozens of nearby islands and Hiroshima city from our cable car ride to the top of Mount Misen, the highest point of the island. Free time is offered before we return to Hiroshima for the night.

Tonight, we’ll make a reservation for Okonomiyaki - a mix between a savoury pancake and omelette filled with ingredients of your choice including shredded cabbage, seasonal vegetables, meat, fish and cheese. The meal is cooked in front of us on a hot plate, it is inexpensive and washed down perfectly with a Asahi beer.

Note: From June 2019 the floating Torii Gate is undergoing renovations. The iconic floating Torii Gate will be undergoing renovations from June 2019. During the renovation works the ‘floating’ torii gate will be covered by scaffolding. A date for the completion of the renovation works has not been set yet.

Average kilometres walked today: 8km Overnight - Hiroshima (B)

Day 10 : Hiroshima Peace Park, Museum & Memorials

Hiroshima - Kyoto. Hiroshima is of course infamous for being the first site where one of two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan at the end World War II. This morning we visit Peace Park and Peace Park Museum which are a poignant reminder of Hiroshima’s tragic past. We’ll see the iconic A-Bomb Dome, one of the very few buildings left standing after the blast and visit the Children’s Peace Monument a memorial to the children killed, where schools from around the world donate paper origami cranes, signifying hope and peace.

This afternoon we take the bullet train to Kyoto. On the train we bid farewell to travellers on our 13 day tour who will continue with your guide to Takayama. Disembark the train and make your own way to your hotel in Kyoto. Spend the remains of the day at leisure. Please note: that arrangements from here are offered independently without the assistance of a tour guide.

Average kilometres walked today: 3.5km Overnight - Kyoto (B)

Day 11 : Free time in Kyoto

A free day to spend a leisure in Kyoto. Independently exploring this enchanting city you'll find sacred shrines tucked in among shopping arcades, time-honoured teahouses nesting among modern businesses and geisha in the historic Gion District. Alternatively, consider using your Japan Rail Pass for a day trip to Nara which has a myriad of shrines and temples, all set against the backdrop of the low lying mountains in the midst of Nara Park.

Day 12 : Kyoto to Osaka

Wednesday. Kyoto - Osaka. Today your Japan adventure sadly comes to an end. We include the cost of the train ticket from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airport to meet your onward international flight. Please book a flight departing after 10am as the train service to Osaka Airport does not operate early in the morning. If extending your stay in Kyoto or
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elsewhere the cost to the train ticket will be
given to you in cash to use as you see fit. (B)

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.

Yaesu Terminal Hotel

Enjoying an enviable location on a cherry-
blossom lined street in the centre of Tokyo,
Yaesu Terminal Hotel is just a short jaunt
away from the city’s main railroad station
giving travellers easy access to locations
across the city. A comfortable 3-star hotel
with a natural theme, a permanent art
exhibit in the hotel lobby and an in-house
restaurant serving freshly prepared local
cuisine; it is a soothing place to relax after
a busy day of sightseeing. Hotel guests can
make use of the free Wi-Fi, benefit from
complimentary bathrobes and slippers and
enjoy entertainment on a flat-screen TV.

Yamagishi Ryokan

With stunning views over Lake Kawaguchi,
which is located just one minute away,
the Yamagishi Ryokan is a gorgeous
accommodation and an excellent base
for exploring the area around the lake.
Rooms are designed according to traditional
Japanese styles with low furniture and lots of
natural light. Breakfast and dinner are both
included with the room and are served in
the hotel’s dining room. After dinner, guests
can take a dip in one of the hotel’s baths
or relax with a coffee in the lounge. The
hotel is located just an 8 minute walk from
Kawaguchiko Station.

Hotel Mifujien

This Japanese-style hotel boasts stunning
views over Lake Kawaguchi and Mount
Fuji from each of its guestrooms. Offering
traditional low furniture and modern
amenities, each room is also equipped
with air conditioning and a TV. The views
can be enjoyed from the hotel’s lobby, tea
lounge and the Japanese restaurant, which
uses local ingredients and offers a feast of
traditional dishes. On the 7th floor you’ll find
both indoor and outdoor hot springs baths,
perfect for unwinding at the end of the day.

Hotel Elcient Kyoto

Boasting a fantastic location in the heart of
Kyoto, Hotel Elcient Kyoto is within walking
distance of top attractions such as Kyoto
Tower and the picturesque Shosei-en
Garden. Guestrooms are compact and simply
furnished, complete with modern amenities
such as air conditioning and ensuite
bathrooms. Enjoy more than 30 different
dishes at the Western and Japanese buffet-
style restaurant, with light lunches and
dinner also available. On the second floor
you’ll find a large public bath and sauna,
offering the perfect spot to relax after some
sightseeing.

Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto

Located just a short walk from Kyoto Station
and the lofty Kyoto Tower, you really cannot
get more central than this! Combining
convenience with comfort, this contemporary
hotel boasts modern guest rooms with
flat screen televisions, complimentary
WiFi, refrigerators and a private toilet –
though washing facilities are shared. Buffet
breakfast is available, with a choice of local
and western dishes on offer. The hotel is
surrounded by a wide choice of shops and
restaurants, adn there are plenty of cultural
landmarks just a short stroll away. After a day
of sightseeing guests can relax with a soak
in the hotel’s natural hot spring baths or opt
for a sauna and massage.

Hokke Club

Situated within walking distance of the
Atomic Bomb Dome and Hiroshima Castle,
Hokke Club Hotel boasts an excellent
location. Guests can start their day with the
European and Japanese-style breakfast
buffet in the onsite restaurant, which is also
open for lunch. Its modern guestrooms are
well-equipped, with an electric kettle, fridge
and air conditioning, alongside free WiFi
access so you can stay connected with your
friends and family back home. Treat yourself
to a relaxing massage or enjoy a dip in the
hot communal baths, a hotel feature that’s
unique to Japanese culture.

Candeo Hotel

Recently opened in 2018, this modern hotel
is conveniently located in the heart of the
city just footsteps from the Hiroshima Peace
Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Museum of
Arts. Guestrooms are spacious and brightly
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lit, benefiting from free WiFi and tea and coffee making facilities. Guests can take advantage of the breakfast buffet, which offers 60 dishes ranging from continental to Japanese cuisine. However, this hotel’s real highlight is its SkySpa, which features a sauna, indoor and outdoor baths set on the rooftop.

Daiwa Roynet

The Daiwa Roynet is a great launching pad for exploring Hiroshima with a prime location and reliable service. The smart guestrooms feature free WiFi access and all the mods-cons needed for a comfortable stay. Dine on Japanese dishes at the hotel’s restaurant. Conveniently located in Hiroshima’s main commercial district, just a 1-minute walk from Chudenmae Tram Station and a 10-minute walk from the Peace Memorial Museum.

Departure transfer

A train ticket from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airport is provided for your departure transfer on day 12, however please note that you will not be escorted by your guide on this journey and will need to make your own way to the train station in Kyoto.

Welcome to Japan - Arrival transfer

We use public transportation for all touring 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. On day 1 (or if you arrive early and have booked pre tour accommodation with us) you will be met at Narita or Haneda International Airport in Tokyo by your tour guide and transferred by train to your hotel in Tokyo.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Japan is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

If you are arriving earlier and you have booked your accommodation independently, you will need to make your own way to our start hotel. The hotel name and address can be found on your Tour Voucher.

If included: We always try to activate your rail pass on your arrival day, however this is not always possible depending on flight times. Your passport is required to activate your rail pass and your guide will be at hand to assist you with this process.

Rooming arrangements

Most hotels in Japan offer single rooms with one bed and twin share/double room 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 one of 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 city location.

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 to 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 throughout your holiday that non-smoking room will be provided. It is requested with the hotel, but cannot be guaranteed.

The restaurants we do book are non-smoking, and if heading out to a bar we will reserve a place 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 private holiday with us, where we are able to select small (limited rooms) high-end boutique properties that operate a 100% no smoking policy.

Guides & groups

Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your tour may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on. As such, you may have more than one guide during your holiday.

Guides: We believe the best way to see a country is through the eyes of a local and as such we only employ tour guides native to the country you are visiting. Our guides are passionate, caring, knowledgeable and fun, and by travelling with a local you to get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes.

In order that we show the best of Japan in a non-hurried fashion to you, it is imperative you are ready for departure each day. Please do not delay and inconvenience fellow travellers. It is your responsibility to be at the proposed meeting point for the group in time. We will depart at our specified times.

Japan Country Guide
Visas & passports
Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Japan.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy at least one month prior to travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Japan/Visas

Please note: If you plan to renew your passport between now and your departure date, please let us know as soon as possible. For booking your accommodation and transportation, we must have the details of the passport that you will be carrying with you on your trip.

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 walk an average of 3.5–9km each day, with steps, slopes and often uneven ground at sites.

Please note: 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 some time getting additional exercise in preparation for your holiday and to wear suitable footwear.

Entrance fees
On most of our packages, the entrance fees are not included in the price of your holiday, although reasonably priced. We collect the entrance fees at the Welcome Meeting on day 1 (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document). A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival. Entrance fees are payable in local currency - Japanese Yen (JPY).

Tipping
Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD$3-5 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For any drivers or On The Go Representatives we’d recommend USD$1-2 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Is this holiday right 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 precisely 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.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Japan/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for your holiday.

Health
You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling. Water is safe to drink in all areas of Japan.

Some medication including the stimulant dexamphetamine (used to treat ADHD) and pseudoephedrine (found in some cold and flu tablets) are 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.

Packing
Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

One medium sized suitcase is recommended for travel around Japan and you will also want to take a small backpack or day pack for daily use. This small backpack 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 your feet – high heels are not a nifty way to travel through Japan! Also, shoes will often be taken off and put back on, so something that is easy to put on and off easily is best!

• Comfortable walking shoes
• Universal travel adaptor
• DEET based mosquito repellent/antihistamine cream
• First aid kit including Dioralyte
• Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
• Camera and charger – Japan is a photographer’s dream!
• Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch and money belt
• Either a rucksack or suitcase is suitable. A small daypack for your day-to-day needs

Own arrangements
If you have made your own arrangements for accommodation, trains, planes or further
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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. That said, our guides are unable to become involved with these arrangements, such as calling your hotel and speaking on your behalf, changing your reservation, or escorting you to your new location, as it puts them in a difficult situation if things do not go to plan.

Free Wi-Fi in Japan

There are three nationwide services that make connecting to free Wi-Fi hotspots easier:

Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi:
A smartphone app that unifies the registration process of over 150,000 free tourist hot-spots. Look for it in the AppStore, Google Play or visit the following link for more details:
http://www.ntt-bp.net/jcfw/en.html

Free Wi-Fi Passport:
Two weeks free access to approximately 400,000 Softbank hot-spots across Japan. To register, call a toll-free number from a foreign cellphone while connected to the Softbank roaming network. You are given to a password that can be used on up to five devices. Visit the following link for more details on how to sign up:

Travel Japan Wi-Fi:
A smartphone app that provides two weeks free access to over 200,000 Wi2 hotspots in Japan. Look for it in the AppStore, Google Play or visit the following link for more details:
https://japanfreewifi.com/