Tokyo to Beijing
15 Days | Tokyo to Beijing

Take in the highlights of Japan and China on this 15 day tour from Tokyo to Beijing. See the impressive Nijo Castle and the Geisha district of Kyoto, stroll through the bamboo forest in Kamakura, climb the Great Wall, encounter Emperor Qin's incredible Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, sample Japanese and Chinese cuisine and much more.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• Tokyo - Sensoji Temple district and temple, Harajuku, Takeshita street, Meiji Shrine & Shibuya Crossing
• Kamakura - Big Buddha Statue, Hokokuji Zen temple and the Bamboo Forest and delightful village atmosphere. Opt to take part in a Tea Ceremony
• Lake Kawaguchi located within Fuji Hakone Izu National Park - spectacular mountain scenery and views of 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 & Kinkakuji (Golden temple) Temple
• Kyoto - walking tour of the famed Geisha district (Gion), with its ancient cobbled streets, streams, bridges and quaint teahouses and the opportunity to see Geisha and Maiko en route to their next engagement
• Shanghai - Plaza Tower, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yu Yuan Garden, Huangpu River skyline of Pudong City
• Xi'an – Terracotta Warriors, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Muslim Quarter & City Wall bike ride
• Badaling - Great Wall of China at Badaling
• Suzhou - Grand Canal boat trip and Lingering Garden
• Beijing – Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Rickshaw ride around the Hutongs, Pearl Market and evening Chinese acrobatic performance

What's Included
• 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners (including a Japanese dinner at the Lake Kawaguchi)
• 12 nights 3 - 4 star accommodation (including 1 night in a traditional Japanese inn)
• 2 overnight trains (4 berth soft sleeper cabin)
• Japan airport arrival transfer by train from Narita or Haneda International Airport on day 1. Departure transfer (unescorted) - by train or bus from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airports (ITM & KIX) on day 8.
• China airport arrival transfer from Shanghai Airport on day 8 and departure transfer to Beijing Airport on day 15
• Guided sightseeing and walking tours in Tokyo, Kamakura, Lake Kawaguchi, Kyoto, Shanghai, Suzhou, Xi'an, Beijing and Badaling
• Lake Kawaguchi & 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 as the backdrop
• Shanghai - Huangpu River cruise
• Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
• Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
• Chinese acrobatic performance
• Rickshaw ride through Beijing's Hutongs
• Escorted by a licensed English speaking Japanese/Chinese tour guide/s for groups of 6 or more, English speaking specialist guides at local sites
• All transportation and transfers - buses, trains and rail passes (including Suica swipe Card)
• Baggage forwarding service from Tokyo to Kyoto (one bag per person)

What’s Not Included
• Tipping Kitty: USD$50-60pp in China, paid in local currency
Tokyo to Beijing

• Entrance Fees: Japan USD$25-35pp, China USD$100-110pp, paid in local currency
• International flights (including the flight from Osaka to Shanghai on day 8), visas and tipping
• Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
• Tip for your tour guides. We recommend you allow USD$3 - 5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
• 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 (our overnight stay at Lake Kawaguchi), where single rooms are not available. For this night you will be matched up with a fellow tour member of the same sex

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tokyo

Saturday. Welcome to Japan! Upon arrival in Tokyo you will be met at either Narita or Haneda International Airport by your guide. Travel by train into the heart of the city and check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to spend at leisure. Overnight - Tokyo

Day 2: Tokyo Sightseeing - Sensoji Temple district, Harajuku & Shibuya

Taking the subway to Asakusa, today we explore the capital. Our first stop is the lively Sensoji Temple district, home to Tokyo's first temple and scores of craft stalls and interesting souvenirs. After lunch, we head to Harajuku, a magnet for the young and fashionable Tokyoites with its hip shops and cafes. Whilst here we will explore the impressive Meiji Shrine where the emperor Meiji and his wife are enshrined. We then head to Yoyogi Park where we can see bands playing, drum circles, dancers and busking – this is a popular hangout for locals especially on Sundays.

Our final stop for today is one of the busiest intersections in the world, Shibuya crossing. 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, converge onto the intersection from every direction. Known as 'the scramble', it's a well-practised art to duck and weave with sportsman like agility to avoid collision, which we'll watch from the second floor of Starbucks. Total walking distance today: Approx 8 - 10km. Tonight, is at leisure, though if travelling in January, May and September you might like spend the evening watching a Sumo tournament (bookings must be made in advance) Please see our trip notes for more info. Overnight - Tokyo

Day 3: Kamakura & the Bronze Buddha

Tokyo - Kamakura - Tokyo. After breakfast, we board a train for our hours journey to Kamakura, Japan's first feudal capital and a popular seaside location, with a quaint village life feel and some stunning Zen temples. Here we'll visit the iconic bronze Big Buddha and the Zen Temple of Hokokuji with its beautiful bamboo garden. Here you can drink tea and learn about the tea ceremony before walking the cobbled shopping district - adorned with lovely locally made items and returning to Japan's bustling capital for the night. Overnight - Tokyo

Day 4: Tokyo Edo Museum & Free Time

Tokyo Edo Museum - today we enjoy a guided tour of this museum that houses some of the city's best original artefacts and replicas of Edo-era buildings and landmarks, along with several large-scale models. Focusing on the lifestyle and culture experienced by Tokyoites over the city's 400-year history. The rest of today is free for you to further explore independently. For tours departing after 01 Oct 2017 a visit to The National Museum replaces our visit to the Tokyo Edo Museum as it is closed for renovation. Overnight - Tokyo

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Day 5 : Mt Fuji & Lake Kawaguchi

Lake Kawaguchi – Kyoto. This morning offers the opportunity to hike along the foreshores of the beautiful lake, before traveling by bus to Mishima, on wards to Japan’s ancient and cultural capital, by bullet train to Kyoto.

Kyoto is home to an abundance of UNESCO World Heritage sites, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines and one of the most culturally rich cities in Asia. Here we enjoy a guided tour of the famous statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy at Sanjusagen-do Temple, where one thousand life-size statues of Kannon are made of Japanese cypress clad in gold leaf. Standing in 10 rows of 50, each hand crafted and slightly different from the next. Our next stop is 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. **Overnight - Kyoto (B)**

Day 6 : Kyoto - Sanjusagen-do Temple & the Geisha District

No trip to Japan would be complete without sampling authentic Japanese hospitality at a traditional ryokan (a Japanese inn), which is where we’ll bed down tonight. At the ryokan, sample tasty local cuisine and take a relaxing dip in the natural hot spring baths.

Note: As of June 2019 the Hakone Ropeway has been temporarily suspended – please see the Trip Notes for further details. **Overnight - Lake Kawaguchi (D)**

Day 7 : Kyoto - Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion & free time

Morning visit to the famous 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. Next, we visit one Japan’s most visited temples, the stunning Zen Buddhist temple of Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) which is part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. Set upon a small lake with landscaped gardens the large completely gilt structure is impressive as it is beautiful Temple and the top two floors of the monument are completely covered in gold leaf.

This afternoon offers free time for you to relax or to further discover the many sights of Kyoto independently. You might wish to hire a Kimono and walk the streets as many Japanese do or take part in a cooking lesson. Or opt to visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its winding path which is 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. **Overnight - Kyoto (B)**

Day 8 : Goodbye Japan, Hello China

Saturday. Take the train (unescorted) from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airport for your flight to Shanghai (flight not included). Arrive Shanghai Airport and included transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax or head out and explore the city.

**Please note:** The flight from Osaka - Shanghai is not included in the cost of this tour. China Eastern Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Air China, Japan Airlines all fly direct. If you provide us with your flight details, we will be there to meet you at Shanghai airport and transfer you to your hotel. **Overnight - Shanghai (B)**

Day 9 : Shanghai city tour

Today we embark on a guided tour of Shanghai, taking in sites including the lofty Plaza Tower, tranquil Yu Garden, the Old City and the bustling Bund. Shanghai is a city with a turbulent history and a promising future offering the best of the old and the new, with grand colonial architecture engulfed by gleaming skyscrapers. This evening we enjoy a cruise on Huangpu River and dinner at a local restaurant. **Overnight - Shanghai (B, D)**
Tokyo to Beijing

Day 10 : Suzhou - an oriental Venice

Shanghai - Suzhou - Xi’an. Ancient Suzhou is reminiscent of Venice, with its series of canals, picturesque waterways and classical gardens. We enjoy a cruise on the Grand Canal, a tour the Lingering Garden - a beautiful classical Chinese garden dating back from the Ming Dynasty and visit a silk workshop. Later we return to Shanghai for our overnight train to Xi’an. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, L)**

Day 11 : Xi’an & Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Arrival Xi’an and transfer to our hotel for breakfast, check in with time to freshen up before heading out to explore Xian. We start with one of Xian’s most iconic landmarks, the iconic Big Wild Goose Pagoda, followed by the vibrant Muslim Quarter. Later we enjoy a leisurely bike ride along the Xi’an City Wall. Dating back to 1370 the 12m-high walls are some of the few remaining urban fortifications still standing in China today. Tonight, we offer an optional Tang Dynasty add-on, which includes dinner and a traditional performance. **Overnight - Xi’an (B, L)**

Day 12 : Terracotta Warriors

Xi’an - Beijing. Emperor Qin’s 2,200 year old famous life-sized Terracotta Warriors and horses were designed to offer protection to the emperor in the afterlife. This morning we explore the archaeological site, where 7,000 clay warriors stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger and no two faces are alike. Later we visit the clay workshop, specialising in making replica figurines of the Terracotta Warriors. After dinner, we board the overnight express train bound for Beijing. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, L)**

Day 13 : Tiananmen Square & Forbidden City

Morning arrival into Beijing. Today’s highlights include Tiananmen Square and the sprawling Forbidden City, boasting some 9999 rooms, the city within a city was once the sole preserve of the Chinese emperors. This afternoon we take a rickshaw ride through the Hutongs before watching a Chinese Acrobatic performance this evening. **Overnight - Beijing (B)**

Day 14 : The Great Wall

The famous Great Wall! The now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches 6000 kilometres across barren hills, deserts and mountains, from east to west in northern China and was constructed over a period of 2000 years. The wall is steep in sections but the photo opportunities are well worth the effort. After lunch we visit a jade carving factory before heading to the bustling Pearl Market where you’ll find anything from jewellery and clothing to gadgets and DVDs. **Overnight - Beijing (B, L)**

Day 15 : Beijing

Saturday. Our Chinese adventure comes to an end today. Hotel check out and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (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. If you require a complete list of the confirmed hotels for your tour please request this from your reservations consultant two weeks prior to your departure. 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

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access and the hotel also boasts a range of restaurants and bars, as well as an indoor swimming pool. Located just a 10 minute walk from the Temple of Heaven, the hotel is the perfect base from which to explore this fascinating city.

Ramada Encore Shanghai Hotel

Ideally located close to several plazas and shopping centres, this modern hotel offers you a comfortable stay in one of China's fastest growing cities. Guestrooms are equipped with all the essential amenities, with free WiFi and access to the breakfast buffet included. The onsite Dakang Restaurant also serves lunch and dinner, and you can expect a tasty menu featuring both Western and Chinese cuisine. Other amenities include a fitness centre, coffee shop and small convenience store.

Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan

Located just a stones throw from the Beitucheng Subway station, with access to Line 10 & Line 8, the Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan is a perfect base to explore the many amazing highlights of Beijing. Within walking distance of the hotel you'll find the famous Birds Nest Olympic Stadium. The hotel boasts a stylish restaurant offering breakfast, lunch and dinner.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a ‘G’ are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

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.

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.

Wan Nian Grand Hotel

The Wan Nian Grand is a comfortable, friendly hotel with light and spacious guest rooms. Elegantly decorated, the rooms also boast modern amenities and the hotel has a wealth of facilities including an indoor pool and sauna house, a cafe and bar, and well-equipped business centre. The hotel is located 4 kilometres from the railway station and 30 kilometres from the airport.

Holiday Inn Temple of Heaven

The Beijing Holiday Inn Temple of Heaven is an elegant and comfortable hotel with well-furnished and spacious rooms. Practical in design, the guestrooms feature internet

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.

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