TRIP NOTES

Tokyo to Shanghai
18 Days | Tokyo to Shanghai

Take in the highlights of Japan and China on this 18 day tour from Tokyo to Kyoto, then Beijing to Shanghai. 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 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, Sanjusangen-do Temple with its 1000 life-like statues and Kinkakuji Temple (Golden 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’s and Maiko en route to their next engagement
• Beijing – Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, rickshaw ride around the Hutongs, Pearl Market and amazing Chinese acrobatic performance
• Badaling and Juyongguan - 2 UNESCO Listed sections of Great Wall of China!
• Luoyang – UNESCO Listed Longmen Caves and stone carvings, Shaolin Kung Fu Temple, Xi’eruan Park activities
• Xi’an – Terracotta Warriors, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Muslim Quarter and City Wall bike ride
• Suzhou - Grand Canal boat trip and Lingering Garden
• Shanghai - Plaza Tower, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden, Huangpu River skyline of Pudong City

What’s Included
• 17 nights 3 - 4 star accommodation (inclusive of 1 night in a traditional Japanese inn)
• 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 and KIX) on day 8
• China: Airport arrival transfer from Beijing Capital Airport on day 8 and departure transfer to Shanghai Airport on day 18
• Guided sightseeing and walking tours in Tokyo, Kamakura, Lake Kawaguchi, Kyoto, Luoyang, Shanghai, Suzhou, Xi’an, Beijing and Badaling
• 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 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 Beijings’ Hutongs
• Escorted by a licensed English speaking Japanese/Chinese tour guide/s (for groups of 6 or more) and English speaking specialist guides at local sites
• All transportation and transfers - buses, trains and rail passes (including Suica Swipe Card)
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- Baggage forwarding service from Tokyo to Kyoto (one bag per person)

What's Not Included
- Tipping Kitty: USD$75-85pp in China, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: Japan USD$25-35pp, China USD$150-160pp, paid in local currency
- International flight from Osaka - Beijing on day 8
- 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 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 1: Welcome to Japan!

Saturday. Welcome to Japan and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Haneda or Narita Airport, you will be met by your tour guide or a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative.

Should you not be able to locate our guide/representative please do not leave the arrivals area. If after waiting 30 minutes at the arrivals area and you are still unable to locate our guide/representative, please call the 24 hour contact person noted on your tour voucher. If arriving on a flight landing prior between 06:00 - 06:30 and you've sped through customs to find that our guide is not in the arrivals hall to meet you, please be patient as our guide will enroute arriving on the first train of the day scheduled to arrive at 06:30 without delays.

After meeting up with your tour guide/representative, together you will travel by train into the heart of the city and check into your hotel. Overnight - Tokyo

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

Today we explore the capital. Taking the subway to Asakusa we visit the lively Sensoji Temple district, which is home to Tokyo's first temple and scores of interesting souvenirs and craft stalls. In the afternoon we head to Harajuku, which is a magnet for young and fashionable Tokyoites with its hip shops and cafes. Here we'll visit the impressive Meiji Shrine where the emperor Meiji and his wife are enshrined. Yoyogi Park beside the shrine 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 intersections 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, converge onto the intersection from every direction. Here we'll grab a coffee or cold drink and rest our weary feet at the Starbuck's, with 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'. Total walking distance today: Approx 8 - 10km.

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 & the Bronze Buddha

Today offers a guided tour of the Tokyo Edo Museum & free time

Today offers a guided tour of the Tokyo Edo Museum which focuses on the lifestyle and culture experienced by Tokyoites over the
Tokyo to Shanghai

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. **Overnight - Tokyo**

### Day 5: Mt Fuji & Lake Kawaguchi

**Tokyo - Lake Kawaguchi.** This morning we travel by highway bus (with luggage forwarding) to Lake Kawaguchi, located at the foot of Mt Fuji in the Fuji Hakone Izu National Park. The scenery is stunning with panoramic views of a snow-capped Fuji most of the year. Upon arrival, we’ll travel along 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.

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:** 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 sex for the evening.

Average kilometres walked today: 5.5km

**Overnight - Lake Kawaguchi**

### Day 6: Kyoto - Sanjusagen-do Temple & 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 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. Late 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. **Overnight - Kyoto**

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

This morning we offer 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, part of the Historic Monuments of 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 gilded structure is impressive as it is beautiful Temple. 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.

Please note the floating Torii Gate will be under construction from June 2019 to August 2020. **Overnight - Kyoto**

### Day 8: Goodbye Japan, Hello China

**Saturday.** Kyoto - Osaka - Beijing. Take the train (unescorted) from Kyoto Station to Osaka Airport for your flight to Beijing (flight not included). Arrive Beijing Capital Airport and included transfer to your 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 Airport - Beijing Capital Airport is not included in the cost of this tour. If you provide us with your flight details, we will be there to meet you at Beijing Capital Airport and transfer you to your hotel.

If you require transfers from Daxing International Airport (Beijing), this can be arranged at an additional fee, please speak with your reservations consultant for further details.
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**Overnight - Beijing (B)**

Day 9 : Forbidden City

This morning we gather for a short a Welcome Meeting. Your entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected at this time. Then, it's time to set off and see some of Beijing. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the striking Monument to the People’s Heroes. In the square Mao’s gargantuan mausoleum in granite where since his death in 1976, he has lain in state in his crystal coffin. We’ll have a stroll on the square, which attracts many tourists wishing to take photos, all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards.

Perhaps one of Beijing’s most famous sights is the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Up above the gate and looking out across to all his people, is a famous colour portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Perhaps today, he is looking at a different Beijing, one that is quickly entering the 21st century. The Gate of Heavenly Peace is the main entry point into the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City, once forbidden to all those except on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was removed from his throne. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. We enjoy a guided walk through the city’s many temples, grand halls and courtyards. The 1420, it served as the imperial palace for

After a free morning to further explore the city, we drive beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we can walk a section of the famous Great Wall. An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. The immense construction took place over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. Snaking some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaux, the now partially ruined Great Wall stretches east to west in northern China. At one time perhaps nearly 9700 kms long, the wall was garrisoned by 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers. A little steep in sections, but the photo opportunities are worth a million dollars!

We also visit a Jade Carving Centre before heading to our hotel.

This evening we spend the night at our quaint hotel which offers views of the Great Wall near Juyongguan Pass. We rate our accommodation this evening as ‘basic’. Guest rooms are clean and offer ensuite facilities, though furnishings and amenities are out dated. We use the Changjiuyuan hotel (with very few alternatives in the area), due to its exceptional location - just minutes by bus from the Juyongguan section of the Wall. The location of the property affords us the opportunity to be at the Juyongguan Pass section of the wall early tomorrow morning to enjoy a leisurely walk along the wall, without the tourist masses. **Overnight - Beijing - Juyongguan Pass (B, L)**

Day 11 : Morning at the Great Wall

Beijing - Luoyang. We rise early this morning and head (5 min bus drive) to the Great Wall at Juyongguan Pass when it opens to beat the crowds. Surrounded by rugged mountains, Juyongguan Pass was an important military stronghold from the days of 770BC! This part of the Great Wall is in good condition and offers those who want it, a quite challenging walk to the top – but those willing to give it a go will be rewarded with magnificent views! This part of the wall has several Buddhist temples including the...
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fascinating Cloud Platform which is famous for its Buddhist inscriptions and carvings. The 'platform' was originally the base for several Stupas.

Later we return to Beijing to explore the famous Pearl Market - an Aladdin's Cave of clothing, jewellery and electronic gadgets before taking an afternoon bullet train to Luoyang. Reaching speeds of up to 305km per hour the journey is an experience in itself! Check in to hotel in Luoyang, late evening.

Note: For those that are not interested in shopping at the Pearl Market, you have the option of visiting the Temple of Heaven if you haven’t done so already, the entrance gate is directly across the road from the Pearl Market. In 1998, the temple was added to the World Heritage List and in 2005 underwent a USD$5.9 million face-lift in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The temple is well worth a visit especially now renovated. Entrance fees are approx. 35¥pp (dependent upon time of year) and entrance tickets can be purchased on the day at the front gate.

Overnight - Luoyang (B)

Day 12 : Shaolin Kung Fu Temple

First thing today we drive to the Shaolin Kung Fu Temple (approx 2 hours), set on the foothills of the Songshan Mountain. Here generation after generation of Shaolin monks have devoted themselves to practising Chan Buddhism and a martial art widely recognised as the origins of kung fu. Over the years hundreds, if not thousands, of people have flocked to this very site to learn this ancient discipline and we’ll have the opportunity to watch a performance of kung fu during our visit. Returning to Luoyang you’ll have some free time, and the option to walk to Xiyuan Park where ball room dancing, tai chi, aerobics and badminton lessons take place every evening. Overnight - Luoyang (B, D)

Day 13 : Longmen Caves & Xi’an City Wall

Luoyang - Xi’an. Today we explore the UNESCO-listed 5th and 6th Century Longmen Caves etched into the cliffs of the Yi River. The 2,300 caves (grottoes) are adorned with 110,000 statues and images of Buddha, carved during the Northern Wei Dynasty. This afternoon we board the high speed train to Xi’an (journey time approx 2hrs). After hotel check-in and some time to fresh up we’ll embark on a casual bike ride around the Xi’an City Wall. Looking down as you pedal offers delightful views of the Old City in the centre of the walls and the modern city on the outside. Overnight - Xi’an (B, D)

Day 14 : Terracotta Warriors

Most famous for the Terracotta Warriors, perhaps the find of the 20th century and only just usurped by the discovery of King Tut’s gold-laden tomb in Egypt. Emperor Qin’s Terracotta Warriors comprise more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers which stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. Made of local clay, no two faces are alike, each is said to be an individual portrait. We visit a workshop where you’ll see modern-day crafts people producing terracotta warrior figurines before we continue to the archaeological site itself.

Emperor Qin’s army of 2,200 year old terracotta warriors were discovered in 1974 by local farmers who happened to be digging a well. Previous emperors used to be buried with their slaves but slavery had been abolished. So, to make up for this, Qin had the warriors made to be buried near him to protect him in the afterlife. Delicate excavation continues on site, where hundreds of warriors remain smashed like eggs, not due to the passage of time but rather a peasant revolt after the emperor’s death.

The emperor’s tumulus (ancient grave mound) is located about a mile away and is said to contain untold treasures. To date, only trial archaeological digs of the main site have been completed.

This evening, On Broadway - Chinese style we can attend a Tang Dynasty dinner and performance with Chang’ an music and dance originally performed for the illustrious Tang emperors - includes dinner, a traditional performance and return transfers (bookable locally Yuan350 per person). Overnight - Xi’an (B, L)

Day 15 : Wild Goose Pagoda & Muslim Quarter

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Day 17 : Suzhou, Grand Canal cruise

Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai. Today we travel by road to ancient Suzhou (if the tour group is small the journey may be undertaken by high speed train). A sort of oriental Venice, ancient Suzhou is interwoven by a series of canals and pretty waterways which feed a series of classical gardens, laid out here since the Song dynasty a thousand years ago, they are justly famous across China. At 1800km, it is the longest canal on earth and ranks alongside the Great Wall as China’s greatest engineering achievement.

Suzhou sits very close to the Grand Canal, here we enjoy a cruise on the Grand Canal before exploring the Lingering Garden - a beautiful classical Chinese garden dating back from the Ming Dynasty. Today's final visit is a silk workshop before returning to Shanghai. Evening time to enjoy your last night in Shanghai. Overnight - Shanghai (B, L)

Day 18 : Farewell China...

Tuesday. Our tour ends after breakfast, hotel check out is at 12 noon and included departure transfer to airport. Happy Travels!(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 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 buffets.

TRIP NOTES

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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.

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.

Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan

Located just a stones throw from the Beitocheng 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.

Peony Plaza

The Peony Plaza Hotel is ideally located in Luoyang city centre, making it easily accessible from all parts of the city. The hotel benefits from a stylish, contemporary design and the guest rooms are tastefully furnished. All rooms feature minibars, free WiFi and LCD TVs with cable channels. The hotel also boasts a sauna and massage centre as well as a rotating restaurant for excellent views of the city.

Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel

Located a stone’s throw away from the Ancient City Wall and Islamic Mosque, is the Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel. The hotel offers modern comforts in the heart of the city. Each air-conditioned guestroom features WiFi, a minibar and satellite TV. There is an onsite restaurant which serves a daily buffet or a la carte breakfast as well as a variety of Asian and Western dishes. During free time, guests can enjoy a relaxing massage or work out in the fitness centre.

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Note: If you are over the age of 60 at time of travel, a discounted or free entry to some sites may be possible (subject to change by the government). Entrance fees will be collected in full on day 2, and your guide(s) will attempt to get a discount at each site on your behalf. If a discount is obtained your guide will issue a refund at this time. Please make your guide aware of this (if you are eligible) at the Welcome Meeting so that the discount can be requested throughout the tour.

Tipping kitty in China
At the start of your group tour at the Welcome Meeting, we’ll collect a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we suggest USD$3-5 per traveller, per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

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 available.

Solo travellers
There is no compulsory single supplement on this tour, so if you’re travelling solo and are happy to share a room with a fellow traveller of the same sex we’ll match you up. Alternatively if you prefer the privacy of your own room you can choose to pay a single room supplement, however please note that single rooms are not available at the Lake Kawaguchi ryokan so you will be matched up with a fellow traveller of the same sex for the evening of day 5.

Entrance fees in China
Entry fees to most sites are not included although reasonably priced. In China, we’ll collect the entrance fees on Day 2 of your tour in China, at the Welcome Meeting (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first of this document). A comprehensive breakdown of the entrance fees is provided upon arrival. All funds collected in China for entrance fees and any optional excursions (that you may wish to undertake) are payable in local currency - Chinese Yuan (CNY).

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.

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.

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.

Know Before You Go

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www.onthegotours.com
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Tokyo to Shanghai 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.

China Country Guide

Arrival transfers

For tours starting in Beijing When arriving into Beijing Capital Airport and attending to immigration and customs formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. If arriving to Beijing into Terminal 2, when exiting immigration to the arrivals hall, please turn right where our representative will be waiting. If arriving into Terminal 3 you will be met just outside the restricted area.

If you require a transfers from Daxing International Airport, this can be arranged at an additional fee, please speak with your reservations consultant for further details.

Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent On The Go Tours logo signboard, ready to escort you to our awaiting transportation and onward to your tour start hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (remember Beijing is a busy International Airport) after waiting 30 minutes in the arrival hall or your flight to China is delayed please call the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher. Please do not leave the airport and travel to the hotel yourself. Please call the contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas

China Visa
Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential that a tourist visa is procured prior to travel. We will provide you with an invoice/ itinerary indicating that you are travelling to China on a pre-arranged holiday. The visa is valid for entry within 3 months, so you cannot apply any earlier. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China.

If you’re a resident of the UK and would like someone to handle your visa application for you then we recommend CIBTvisas. Please visit http://www.cibtvisas.co.uk/onthego for more information.

Visa for Hong Kong
Most Western visitors to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People’s Republic of China do not require a tourist visa issued in advance of travel. Currently, UK nationals can stay up to 180 days. Nationals of Australia, Canada, Eire, most other EU countries, New Zealand and the US do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 90 days, while holders of RSA passports can remain for up to 30 days. If entering Hong Kong from mainland China and returning to mainland China a multiple Chinese entry visa is required.

Visa for Tibet
Tibet - If travelling to Tibet, a Tibet Travel Permit is required. The permit will be arranged by our office in China. Please contact On The Go Tours prior to departure for the most up to date Tibetan entry information.

The information above is not applicable for the Beijing and Shanghai Visa Free Tours.

NOTE: Visa requirements are subject to change so please check with your embassy before booking your holiday.

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.

Health requirements & water
You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

As tap water is not safe to drink in China, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants. Make sure bottled water is sealed.

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

- Food in China is very different and arguably better than your local takeaway! If you prefer western snack food, consider bringing a supply
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, basic torch/flash light and umbrella for sun or rain
- Comfortable closed in walking shoes for climbing the Great Wall
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs

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Tokyo to Shanghai

• Plastic poncho to go over your jacket. Whilst site-seeing, you can be in the rain for an extended period and even a rain jacket can get soaked. You can purchase a cheap one locally, but we suggest taking one from home of a better quality that doesn’t rip easily.
• If your tour includes an internal flight, that most airlines have a 20kg baggage limit.
• Note: The government has introduced a policy for the purpose of environment protection, whereby hotels no longer supply disposable items such as slippers, shower caps, tooth brush/paste, body lotion, etc.

Portage
Pack as light as possible! In China, most often portage is not available at railway stations and you will be required to carry your own luggage. Bags with wheels can be a hindrance when climbing several flights of stairs, though are a blessing when walking lengthy distances to reach our awaiting transportation.

Toilets/washrooms
Public toilets, when found, are usually ‘squats’ - holes in the ground with footrests at either side and often don’t possess a door! The custom is to wash with water from a jug or little pipe attached to the toilet using your left hand. Doesn’t appeal? Here are some hints!
• Time yourself with the accommodations you are staying at
• If you are out and about, find the nearest hotel, restaurant, fast food outlet, or toilets at tourist attractions, which all tend to have Western style facilities
• Ask your tour guide to make a stop
• Pack a roll of toilet paper and anti-bacterial wipes for your own comfort

Media restrictions
There are restrictions on all media, including social media and free press throughout China. Whilst on holiday, you will have limited or no access to social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Plus - so no Google Maps and no Play Store. To bypass the firewall, you could look at downloading a VPN, which is much easier to do this before you go to China.

Communication between the group and Tour Guide or Adventure Leader is best via the app: WeChat. Please install this App prior to your holiday as it is hard to do download the app once you have arrived in China. If you opt to open the WeChat account prior to arrival and it requests that you have to be contacted by someone already on WeChat before opening your account, don’t worry, this can be done locally with your guide (just have the app downloaded ready to finalise opening your account locally).

There is also limited international calling options, so please check with your local provider before leaving home, to source the best roaming or online options to keep in regular contact with family and friends during your travels.

Travelling by train
Fast and efficient, China’s first rail lines were laid in the 19th century, and today, the government continues to invest heavily in this crucial mode of transport which connects many parts of the country. When travelling during the day, ‘soft’ seats, that is to say ‘upholstered’ seats are provided.

For overnight travel on “Signature” tours, clients are accommodated in 'soft class' sleeper cabins. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise 4 bunks per compartment. Four people of mixed sex share one compartment. On occasion, dependent upon group size, you may be sharing with local people on the overnight journey, though sometimes dependent upon how the Chinese Railways Booking Office configure the bookings, the cabin may be filled with four of our passengers.

For overnight travel on “Budget” tours, clients are accommodated in open 6 berth bunks. We try to get all of our travellers in the same compartment/seating area so that you can have fun getting to know each other better, playing games etc. It is possible to upgrade to a four-berth soft sleeper on your trip, please contact us at time of booking for rates (upgrades are only possible if the open class ticket has not already been purchased).

A dining wagon serves reasonably priced Chinese food of the noodles and rice variety, along with snacks and drinks. A very simple menu is published in English. On the Beijing - Xi’an service, there is also a small bar serving drinks including alcohol. Each wagon offers a WC and hand basin facility. At one end, is a Chinese squat-style WC, whilst at the other end is a modern Western-style WC. Cabins are lockable from the inside and luggage is stowed in overhead compartments and under the bottom bunk. Bed linen and slippers are supplied, and often there is a TV mounted on the wall at the end of each bed that may even work. Most channels are broadcast in Mandarin, excluding one English Channel, which has little of interest on it!

Time Keeping
Punctuality is very important throughout the tour and you will usually be given a time to meet your tour leader and the rest of the group in reception. In the event that you miss the meeting time you will have to make your own way to where the group are, this will be at your own expense.

Delays can occur on the trips, although they are rare we recommend you do not book onward travel too close to the end of the tour to allow time for delays. We take no responsibility for any missed flights or additional expenses if the group arrives late to the departure city.

Shopping
China is a virtual Aladdin’s Cave. Government-run Friendship Stores in almost all cities stock a range of fixed-price souvenirs and handicrafts and can offer a reasonable idea of what is acceptable in terms of quality and price. After a visit to the Friendship Store, visit private stores, craft shops and local department stores. However, the best shopping is often at public markets. If you see something you want, buy it when you see it - prices don't vary greatly, but selection can vary from location to location.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel
Tokyo to Shanghai

Obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements.

Proceed with caution.

Holidays & events

China has many important National Holidays and events that are celebrated throughout the country. During these times (the lead up to them and afterwards) there can be delays to public transport, the roads can be much busier and many sites are a lot more crowded as the locals take this time to visit family, celebrate the holiday and experience the wonders and amazing places within their own country.

During this time you’re likely to encounter a celebratory atmosphere, but an additional level of patience, flexibility and understanding goes a long way so that you may enjoy your holiday.

As tourists, you will be generally be unaffected and your tour guide will do their best to plan around these events. Though when initially planning your holiday, if you prefer not to travel when sites are crowded or are concerned about delays, then travelling during these holidays is possibly not for you. For more information: https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/china/2020

It’s not like home!

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

• Be prepared as locals smoke everywhere in China
• The Chinese don’t have an awareness of personal space, be ready to have people standing very close to you, nudge you or even walk into you, they are not being rude, it’s just a very different culture
• Many tourists report scams in Shanghai, so be friendly but careful. Never ever follow a stranger anywhere
• Spitting and snorting is common in China as they see the use of tissues as unhygienic.
• Some locals won’t queue and will often walk straight to the front of a line with no awareness or care of what they have done wrong
• Always take some antiseptic hand gel or antibacterial hand wipes with you and BYO toilet paper as its rare in public toilets. Squat toilets are very common, they can be a novelty and are easy to use
• Chinese people are delighted if you make any attempt to speak Mandarin, even if it’s only a couple of words

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/China/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 cites. 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.

TRIP NOTES

Tokyo to Shanghai - 18 Days

www.onthegotours.com

Tel: 020 7371 1913 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 setting. 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.
Tokyo to Shanghai

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.

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 repellant/
  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
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:
freewifi/en/

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/