

DISCOVER JAPAN

Architecture Tour

Small Group Escorted Tour 2018 (Sat 24 November to Fri 7 December)



Let Shoji Australia be your pathway to discover Japan

This unique tour has been designed to take you on a journey through the characteristics and ideals of traditional Japanese architecture to their influence and interpretation in contemporary design and production. Starting in the ancient capital of Kyoto you will be introduced to traditional construction methods and materials and their application in both iconic and everyday buildings. The relationship with Japanese culture, evident in form, function and aesthetics, will be explored. You will be introduced to the work of famous Japanese architects such as Tadao Ando and Kengo Kuma while touring, and meet architects to discuss their current and past projects. You will gain insight into the technology behind design for earthquake resistance, sustainability, and small space living and be introduced to the latest exterior and interior building materials and fixtures as well as creative presentation concepts. This tour includes an impressive selection and number of first hand architectural experiences.

Your journey across Japan will also allow you to experience the unrivalled hospitality, the culture and history, the cuisine, and cultural experiences like *zen* meditation and dinner with an apprentice *geisha*.

Accommodation will include western style hotels and traditional *ryokans* (Japanese inns). Transportation in Japan will include private coaches, subways, local trains, and *shinkansen* (bullet trains).

This tour is for adults only and is especially suitable for the traveller with no Japanese language ability who is looking for a comprehensive introduction to the architecture of this amazing country. The Japan tour will be fully accompanied by an escort who will be your tour coordinator, translator, and resource for local and architectural knowledge throughout your stay. A detailed information booklet will provide information about the buildings and locations visited and a background of Japanese history and culture.

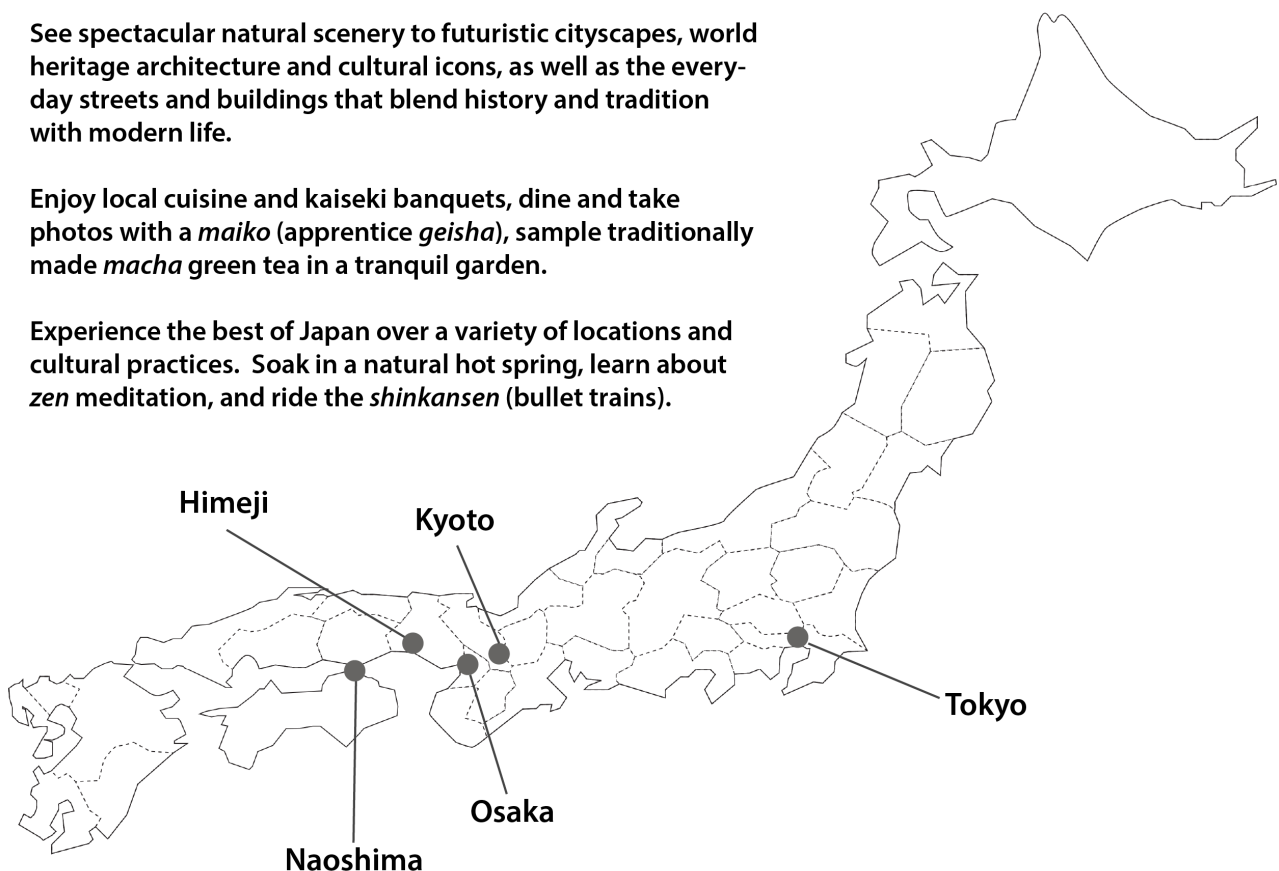
Tour Details

Dates	Departing Perth Airport Saturday 24 November 2018 (17:30) Returning to Perth Airport Friday 7 December 2018 (5:25) <i>11 nights stay in Japan</i>
Price (per person in AUD)	\$ 6,800 per person (Twin Share) \$ 7,600 per person (Single)
Destinations	Kyoto, Hyogo, Kagawa, Osaka, Nara, Tokyo
Package Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore Airlines economy return air fare including tax & charges • Fully escorted from arrival at Kansai International Airport to departure from Tokyo. • All accommodation at standard city hotels or traditional Japanese Inns • Daily breakfast, 7 lunches, & 7 dinners including <i>kaiseki</i> (Japanese banquet dinner) with a <i>geisha</i> or apprentice • All transportation for itinerary: includes 7 day Japan Rail Pass (ordinary class), subway pass, private coaches (as per itinerary), local buses, and taxi transfers • Admission fees for specified itinerary, meditation experience at temple in Kyoto, guided tours specified in the itinerary. • 3 Luggage transfers • Self-guided advice & information for any free time • Support from your friendly tour leader • Pre-departure documents including a detailed information booklet

See spectacular natural scenery to futuristic cityscapes, world heritage architecture and cultural icons, as well as the every-day streets and buildings that blend history and tradition with modern life.

Enjoy local cuisine and kaiseki banquets, dine and take photos with a *maiko* (apprentice *geisha*), sample traditionally made *macha* green tea in a tranquil garden.

Experience the best of Japan over a variety of locations and cultural practices. Soak in a natural hot spring, learn about *zen* meditation, and ride the *shinkansen* (bullet trains).



Tour Notes

The itinerary:

You will receive a more detailed itinerary with your departure information. There may be some schedule changes to allow for bookings that cannot be confirmed until closer to the departure date and when numbers are finalised, and possibly some variations and/or additions to what is offered. Sometimes venue information changes and things may become unavailable. We also always check for new events or opportunities. The tour escort is authorised to amend the itinerary if it becomes necessary. Personal time in Japan may be extended for additional costs.

Applications:

To confirm a place on the tour we require:

1. **A completed Application form** (available on request). As we are travelling in a small group we require some personal information in case of emergency where support may be needed. All information will be treated as confidential.
2. **A copy of the bio-data page of your passport** for processing bookings and for our records.
3. **A deposit of \$500.**

Payments:

Payments can be made by cheque, direct bank transfer, or by credit card (please note that credit card payments incur a fee of 1.5% and only Visa or Master card are accepted). The balance payment is due 70 days prior to the tour commencement (15 September).

Visas:

All travel documents are the responsibility of the traveller. Australian passport holders do not need a visa to enter Japan for up to 90 days.

Your health and fitness:

To have authentic experiences, travelling in Japan will involve walking between public transport and venues, through stations, around towns, around gardens and temple grounds, and up and down stairs. You do need to be in reasonable physical health and have an average level of fitness ... and have good walking shoes! There will be places where you need to take off your shoes to enter and occasions when sitting on or close to the floor is necessary.

Travel insurance:

All tour participants must have travel insurance that at least covers medical expenses and emergency repatriation, although we recommend comprehensive coverage. We will require a copy of the insurance document before departure. We offer travel insurance options with CoverMore.

The Tour Escort:

Your friendly escort will accompany you through the itinerary until departure. The escort will provide information on Japanese culture during the trip, etiquette for venues and events while travelling, and information about the places visited. You will also have a comprehensive information booklet. The escort can also generally assist you and provide information for any free time sightseeing, shopping, meals, etc.

Group dynamics:

Small group tours usually have a maximum of 12 participants. Travelling in a small group has a lot of advantages but does require consideration of other participants and responsibility to the group (for example being on time when requested to arrive at a meeting point). The escort is there to support you but is also responsible for facilitating the itinerary as planned and looking after the

group as a whole. Participants are expected to comply with all reasonable requests when following the itinerary and to always treat the escort and others with respect.

Cultural Respect:

Tour participants are expected to show sensitivity to the Japanese culture and traditions as advised by the escort and to be considerate guests of accommodation, transport services, restaurants, and other venues.

Accommodation:

Hotels in the itinerary above are yet to be confirmed and subject to change. The western style hotels used in the cities may be compact but will be en-suite and provide you with everything needed (e.g. TV, fridge, tea making facilities, hairdryers, & complimentary toiletries). In a Japanese style inn (*ryokan*) the rooms tend to be larger with *tatami* (woven mat) flooring. Bedding there is usually *futon* mattresses on the floor.

Your luggage:

It is best to travel light and choose your luggage wisely. You will be expected to be responsible for your own luggage through transport, stations, and to accommodation. There will be some specified luggage transfers during the tour (you will need to have an overnight bag between sending and receiving luggage). Another consideration is that the Japanese hotels may not have much storage space to lay out luggage. Most hotels offer a laundry service and many have coin operated washers and dryers for guests.

Money for your trip:

You will need money for meals not specified on the itinerary and possible admissions to some venues of personal choice. Japan is traditionally a country that runs on cash. Carrying foreign currencies or travellers cheques is not advised as they may be difficult to exchange. International credit cards may be used at hotels and larger restaurants or stores but is not guaranteed. ATMS that accept Cirrus and Maestro cards are widely available in post offices and convenience stores for withdrawing cash but it is common to carry enough Japanese Yen for the trip. Most hotels provide safety deposit at reception or in-room safes.



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