



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

WORLD HERITAGE & KUMANO KODO CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR 2021

Fri 26th March 2021 - Sat 10th April 2021

From \$9,900 Per Person Twin Share



TOUR DESCRIPTION



17 Days / 16 Nights tour

Begin: Friday 26th March 2021 in Tokyo

End: Saturday 10th April 2021 in Kyoto



\$9,900 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement - \$1,200)

*Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



Breakfast Daily, 6 Lunches,
7 Dinners and welcome drink



15 nights- accommodation
3 - 4 star Western & Japanese



All transfers and tours
as per itinerary



Fully Escorted- by Japan Holidays' Mrs. Judy Luxton /
Government accredited English speaking guides

Exclusions: International or domestic airfares / Entrance fees & Meals not shown in itinerary

Highlights

Whether your passion is photography, culture, shopping, spirituality or gourmet delights, this trip offers a one-of-a-kind scope and exposure to Japan's very best! Experience a life-altering pilgrimage through the Kumano Kodo region flanked by pretty sakura petals and canopies of blooming trees.

Highlight! Stay in a Buddhist temple & experience morning prayers & fire ritual with local monks.

Highlight! Soothing natural hot spring onsen baths in traditional ryokan accommodation

Highlight! Walk the spectacular mountainous scenery of UNESCO Heritage listed Kumano Kodo with a local expert guide

Highlight! Ride the Hozu rapids and walk the serene streets of Arashiyama & Bamboo Forest

Highlight! Visit Tokyo's must see sights including Tsujiki outer markets, Ginza, Imperial Palace, Asakusa

Highlight! Experience exquisite Japanese cuisine and a timeless tea ceremony. Optional activities can be pre-arranged.



ITINERARY

26th March 2021 - Saturday 10th April 2021

1 TOKYO Arrival

Upon your arrival, Judy will greet you in the lobby of the hotel. Day of leisure if your arrival is early morning. Your tour escort Judy, will be on hand for any sightseeing- suggestions -Tsukiji fish outer-markets and Ginza & Harajuku, Meiji shrine and Omotesando areas.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza (3 nights)

Ginza



Tokyu Stay Ginza



2 TOKYO

On this guided walking tour you will see some of Tokyo's most famous sights; Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Sensoji Temple in Asakusa, Meiji shrine and Omotesando using public transport. This evening we host welcome drinks at a local Izakaya - Japanese style pub, nearby.

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3 KAMAKURA Day Tour

Kamakura Full Day Tour - Your guide takes you to the scenic south coast by train. Use your day pass to hop on and off along the way to lovely Enoshima Island. Enjoy a walk here in the hilly forest, or visit one of many shrines dedicated to Benten, goddess of wealth and knowledge. The final stop is at Kamakura, where the towering Buddha - Daibatsu - gazes over the city's temples and traditional gardens. Dinner is on your own, with recommendations upon your request.

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Kamakura



4 TOKYO - NARA

Before travelling to Nara, we forward our main suitcases to Kyoto and travel with cabin sized bags and a backpack.

5 Today we will board the bullet train "Shinkansen" and travel quickly to Kyoto- hopefully again seeing Mt Fuji on the way. After check-in at our local ryokan, you'll get an opportunity to visit Nara Park, the deer and the imposing Todaiji Temple, Kohfukuji Temple and Kasuga Shrine decorated with thousands of lanterns before enjoying a local Okonomiyaki dinner.

On our 2nd day in Nara, we will take a walk to explore the Old District, Naramachi and Nara Park with the Ukimido Gazebo floats on Sagiike Pond.

Accommodation : Ryokan Matsumae

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Nara



6 NARA - KOYASAN

After a wonderful Western/Japanese breakfast, we head to Koyasan via train and one of the steepest cable cars in Japan. After meeting our expert Koyasan Guide, Norikosan we board a bus to our temple and leave our luggage at the hotel prior to check in and have lunch before visiting Koyasan's temple complex. Amid 900m high mountains, you can view World Heritage listed temples, monasteries and assembly buildings before dinner - served at 5:30pm in the temple; vegetarian Buddhist cuisine. After dinner, you are welcome to spend more time in the Temple, depart on the night tour through Okunoin Cemetery, or you can see the head temple - Kongobu-ji beautifully lit up.

Accommodation : Ekoin Temple Lodging, Koyasan

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Koyasan



7 RYUJIN, WAKAYAMA

Very early this morning, you have the opportunity to attend a 6am Buddhist ceremony followed by a fire ritual before breakfast. The group will meet with our guide Noriko for a morning of sightseeing. In the afternoon we enjoy a scenic drive to Ryujin village and relax in a traditional onsen followed by an amazing kaiseki dinner at Kamigoten Ryokan, a traditional inn originally built for a feudal lord that has been in the Ryujin family for 29 generations.

Accommodation : Kamigoten Ryokan

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Kamigoten Ryokan



8 Kumano Kodo

After breakfast, the group will drive to Takahara to hike the Kumano Kodo from Takahara to Chikatsuyu-Oji (9.3km, 6 hours). The group will be provided with a picnic lunch- eaten at Jujo-oji, sandwiches or a Japanese bento (lunch box) and then set off with our local expert guide, Mr Nishiihata for the walk. After the day's walking is finished, the group will drive to Kawayu Onsen to relax in the hot springs before dinner. We cater for non-walkers on this day with another guide and transport to visit the local villages and coastline of Wakayama.

Accommodation : *Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan (2 nights)*

Kumano Kodo *Highlight!*B
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D**9 Kumano Kodo**

After a buffet breakfast, the group will drive to Hosshinmon-oji and walk the Kumano Kodo from Hosshinmon-Oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (8km, 3 hours). Those not walking, are able to spend time at the visitors centre to view videos and presentations along with the Kumano Hongu Taisha shinto shrine. After a picnic lunch with a local Shiso drink at Fushigami-Oji, the group will see the Kumano Hongu Taisha, Oyunohara and the Giant Torii Gateway. Leisure time until 3:45pm when we meet up at the Kumano Hongu Heritage Centre and drive to Yunomine Onsen – one of only two World Heritage Listed hot springs around the globe. Once the day is finished, the group will drive back to Kawayu Onsen and after dinner enjoy a Taiko Drum performance.

Kumano Hongu Taisha

Enjoy & experience Taiko

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D**10 URASHIMA**

Today we leave Midoriya and drive to the boat launch to ride in traditional boats down the UNESCO Heritage Listed Kumanogawa River. This 90 minute traditional boat ride traces the transportation of the Pilgrims many years ago. After visiting Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-Jinja, the group will head to Katsuura. We stop off at Daimonzaka and walk the Kumano Kodo 1km to Kumano Nachi Taisha and waterfall. Today there are many steps to walk. We depart at 5:15pm back to Katsuura and the ferry boat to Urashima Hotel- a James Bond like fortress and a popular holiday spot for Japanese who love tuna and coastal onsens. Tonight we enjoy a kaiseki meal & relax in the town's hot springs and cave baths (Bukido) after a big day.

Kumanogawa River

This 90 minute traditional boat ride traces the transportation of the Pilgrims many years ago.

**Hotel Urashima Sanjokan**

A James Bond like fortress and a popular holiday spot for Japanese who love tuna and coastal onsens.

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D**Fish Market****Eigetsu Island**

Travel the rugged west coast of Wakayama and view amazing sunsets.

11 WAKAYAMA - SHIRAHAMA

Before travelling to Nara, we forward our main suitcases to Kyoto and travel with cabin sized bags and a backpack.

Today we will board the bullet train "Shinkansen" and travel quickly to Kyoto- hopefully again seeing Mt Fuji on the way. After check-in at our local ryokan, you'll get an opportunity to visit Nara Park, the deer and the imposing Todaiji Temple, Kohfukuji Temple and Kasuga Shrine decorated with thousands of lanterns before enjoying a local Okonomiyaki dinner.

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Accommodation : *Ryokan Matsumae*

Yuasa Soy Factory**Tuna cutting Show**B
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-**12 WAKAYAMA City**

Today we will see how Shoyu - (soy sauce) is made at Yuasa Soy factory both the traditional and modern way. At the Kuroshio markets, we may see a tuna cutting show, then lunch and after exploring Wakayama City, we shall go to the castle and enjoy Green Tea and Japanese Sweets at Koshon tea house on castle grounds. Dinner in a local restaurant will be arranged

Accommodation : *Granvia Wakayama*

Wakayama CastleB
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13 WAKAYAMA City - KYOTO

Travelling to Kyoto by Train we shall have a rest day with a number of suggestions for your days activities or rest- Please see escort or your consultant prior to this day to organise our own itinerary

Accommodation : Intergate Kyoto Shijo Shinmachi (3 nights)

14 KYOTO

After breakfast we will depart at 8.30 am for our sightseeing tour of Kyoto by private coach. Nijo Castle which was built by the Tokugawa Shogun in 1603 is beautifully detailed and has specially-constructed "nightingale" floors to warn of approaching visitors/intruders are of particular interest; Kinkakuji Temple or "Golden Pavilion" which still exudes an impression of timelessness; Ryoanji which is rightly famous for its exquisite garden of raked sand and 15 judiciously placed rocks designed in 1473; and Fushimi Inari Shrine with its more than 7000 vermilion hued Torii gates which have been donated by members of the public. Japan Holidays will host lunch at a local restaurant.

15 Kumano Kodo

Today we travel to the Arashiyama Sagano area of Kyoto and spend time viewing the serene bamboo forest and Arashiyama . We also board the "Romance" train into the mountains and return via boat down the gentle "white water" to Arashiyama. This area is noted for its blazing maple colours in autumn and was a favourite of Emperors and Nobles throughout Japanese history.

This evening we shall walk the Gion area and hopefully see a Maiko or Geiko during their work hours. We learn all about this area and the education of Kyoto's Geisha. Farewell dinner hosted by Japan Holidays.

16 URASHIMA

This is the last day of your tour. For those departing from Itami or Kansai airport there will be a shared shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Nijo Castle



Ryoanji



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Kinkakuji Temple



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Fushimi Inari Shrine



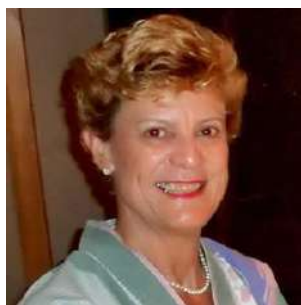
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Arashiyama



Highlight!

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Your Tour Leader- Mrs Judy Luxton

Ever since visiting Japan for the first time in 1972 as a teenager, Judy has had a fascination and interest in Japan which took her back in 1975 to swim at their Nationals. Upon marriage to her husband Tony, who lived in Japan for over 10 years and speaks the language fluently, she has travelled many times each year in all seasons to explore and experience a wide range of activities in many areas of Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Her passion for everything Japanese grows each time she visits this country, from the warmth and caring of the people, the fascinating history, diverse scenery, traditions, modern technologies and the delicious traditional and new cuisine. Her wealth of knowledge, passion, networks across all areas of business within Japan has seen her professionally escort many successful tours to Japan.

End of Tour....

Sayonara!

Contact us

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