



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

WORLD HERITAGE & KUMANO KODO AUTUMN TOUR 2022

Mon 07th November - Wed 23rd November 2022

From \$9,900 per person Twin Share



TOUR DESCRIPTION



17 Days / 16 Nights tour

Begin: Monday 07th November 2022 in Tokyo
End: Wednesday 23rd November 2022 in Kyoto



\$9,900 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement available)

*Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



15 Breakfast Daily,
5 Lunches & 7 Dinners



Minimum 4 star
accommodation



All transfers and
tours as per itinerary



Escort / guide in Japan

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

Highlights

Autumn colours, hot springs, outstanding food, stays in Japan's capital cities of Nara, Tokyo, and Kyoto coupled with walking in the footsteps of the ancient pilgrims will revitalise any person seeking a tour offering unrivalled beauty where you will gain an understanding of both historical and contemporary Japan.

Highlight!

Stay in a Buddhist temple, waking to morning prayers & sacred fire ritual.

Highlight!

Experience excellent Japanese cuisine and local sake and tea ceremony.

Highlight!

Walk the spectacular mountainous scenery of Kumano Kodo.

Highlight!

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

Highlight!

Hot spring bathing in natural onsens and stay in traditional Ryokan accommodation.

Highlight!

Enjoy & experience Taiko drumming.



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.

ITINERARY

07th November 2022 - 23rd November 2022

1 Meet Greet Upon Arrival

Day of leisure if your arrival is early morning. Sightseeing- suggestions -Tsujiki markets and Ginza & Harajuku, Meiji shrine and Omotesando areas

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza (3 nights)

Ginza



Tokyu Stay Ginza



2 TOKYO

On this guided full day tour you will see some of Tokyo's most famous sights; Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Senso-ji 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 is packed with breathtaking scenery, awe-inspiring history, and Buddhist temples, surrounded by autumn foliage. We'll visit Kotoku-in, home to the Kamakura Daibutsu - a serenely seated giant Buddha.

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Kamakura



4 TOKYO - NARA

We forward our main suitcases to Kyoto and travel with cabin sized bags and a backpack. We travel by bullet train "Shinkansen" to Kyoto- hopefully seeing Mt Fuji on the way. We visit Nara Park, the deer and the imposing Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple decorated with thousands of lanterns before enjoying a local Okonomiyaki dinner. On our 2nd day in Nara, we visit Kasuga Taisha Shrine, decorated with thousands of lanterns and explore the Old District, Naramachi.

Accommodation : Ryokan Matsumae (2 nights)

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Nara



6 NARA - KOYASAN

Today we head to Koyasan and meet our expert guide, Noriko. Amid 900m high mountains, we view World Heritage-listed temples and monasteries before a vegetarian Buddhist cuisine. After dinner, you are welcome to spend more time in the Temple, or enjoy the night tour through Okunoin Cemetery.

Accommodation : Fudo-in Temple Lodging, Koyasan or similar

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Koyasan



7 RYUJIN, WAKAYAMA

This morning, you have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist Ceremony (6.00am) followed by a fire ritual. More sightseeing before departing on a scenic drive to Ryujin village and relax in a traditional onsen and an amazing Kaiseki dinner at our Ryokan, a traditional inn originally built for a feudal lord that has been in the Ryujin family for 29 generations.

Accommodation : Kamigoten Ryokan (1 night)



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Kamigoten Ryokan



Kawayu Onsen

8 KUMANO KODO

Today we walk from Takahara to Chikatsuyu-Oji (9.3km, 6 hours) a part of the Imperial route of the Kumano Kodo trek. After the day's walking we 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)

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Kumano Kodo



9 KUMANO KODO

Today we walk the Kumano Kodo from Hosshinmon-Oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (8km, 3 hours). Key sites are the Kumano Hongu Taisha (the main Kumano Shrine in Japan), Oyunohara and the Giant Torii Gateway. After that we drive to Yunomine Onsen - one of only two World Heritage Listed hot springs around the globe. After dinner we will enjoy a Taiko Drum performance.

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Kumano Hongu Taisha



Enjoy & experience Taiko

10 URASHIMA
 Today we ride in traditional boats down the UNESCO Heritage listed Kumanogawa River. After visiting Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-Jinja, we stop for a brief lunch before the Daimonzaka and walk the Kumano Kodo 1km to Kumano Nachi Taisha and waterfall. Today there are many steps to walk. We depart for Katsuura and take the ferry boat to Urashima Hotel - a James Bond like fortress. Tonight we enjoy a kaiseki meal & relax in the town's hot springs and cave baths (Bukido).

Accommodation : Hotel Urashima Sanjokan (1 night)

Kumanogawa River

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



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Hotel Urashima Sanjokan

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

11 WAKAYAMA – SHIRAHAMA
 Some may wish to rise early before breakfast to attend the Fish/Tuna Markets. This is one of the largest Tuna only markets in Japan. We travel up the west coast of Wakayama, enjoying a traditional Tea ceremony in a local house, visit the Sandanbecki Rock Cliffs and caves, lunching at Senjojiki then venturing to Heisogen Park prior to check in where the sun will be setting through Engetsu Island.

Accommodation : Key Terrace Hotel Seamore or similar (1 night)

Fish Market



Engetsu Island



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

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12 WAKAYAMA
 Today we will see how Shoyu - soy sauce is made at the Yuasa Soy factory in both the traditional and modern way. We may get to see a tuna cutting show at the Kuroshio Markets before discovering the sights of Wakayama city where we will visit a tea house and taste Japanese sweets within the castle grounds. Dinner at a local restaurant is arranged this evening

Accommodation : Granvia Wakayama Hotel (1 night)

Yuasa Soy Factory



Tuna cutting Show



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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 pre-book anything in particular you wish prior to departure.

Accommodation : Intergate Kyoto Shijo Shinmachi (4 nights)

Wakayama Castle



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14 KYOTO Day Tour in 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 Rock garden designed in 1473; and Fushimi Inari Shrine with its more than 7000 vermilion hued Torii gates. Japan Holidays will host a traditional Japanese lunch.

Nijo Castle



Ryoanji



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15 KYOTO, ARASHIYAMA
 Today we travel to Arashiyama Sagano area of Kyoto and spend time viewing the Serene Bamboo forest and Arashiyama. We shall also ride 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 learn all about the Kyoto's Geisha

Kinkakuji Temple



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16 KYOTO Free Day
 Today is a free day to explore Kyoto or nearby places at your leisure or do some last minute shopping. Japan Holidays will host a farewell dinner on this night.

Fushimi Inari Shrine



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17 End of Tour
 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.

Arashiyama Highlight!



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End of Tour.... *Sayonara!*