

Come share our love of Japan. Enjoy the company of a small group of like-minded travellers on our Fully Escorted Tours featured within this EBook. Group sizes range from just 8-12 persons and combined with our unique style of touring, allows you to enjoy a more personalised and in-depth holiday experience. Imagine enjoying traditional Japanese meals in local restaurants, staying in small family run ryokans or hotels, and getting to experience the traditions with the local Japanese people --- How Wonderful!!



- with your Japan travel experts.

At Japan Holidays we also pride ourselves on creating holidays to suit our clients' individual needs and expectations. Supported by our network of Government agencies in Japan, we only source reputable local service providers. Check out our web site (https://japanholidays.com.au/) for holidays to Japan best suited to your specific needs ranging from Skiing in Japan, Family Fun Packages, Trekking, Self-Drive, or Cycling Tours amongst others. Japan Holidays aims to provide the best travel products available in Japan tailor made for you. So relax and enjoy our Ebook (and/or Website – each individual Tour along with a downloadable brochure can be found there) and select the holiday that is perfect for you.



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https://japanholidays.com.au

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DYNAMIC TOUR OF KYUSHU OCT 2023

Sat 14th October - Fri 20th October 2023 From \$4,700 Per Person Twin Share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



7 Days / 6 Nights tour

Begin: Saturday 14th October in Kumamoto End: Friday 20th October 2023 in Takeo City



\$4,700 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement - \$1,750)
*Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



Daily breakfasts, lunches & dinners



Transfers, tours, craft & entrance fees as per itinerary

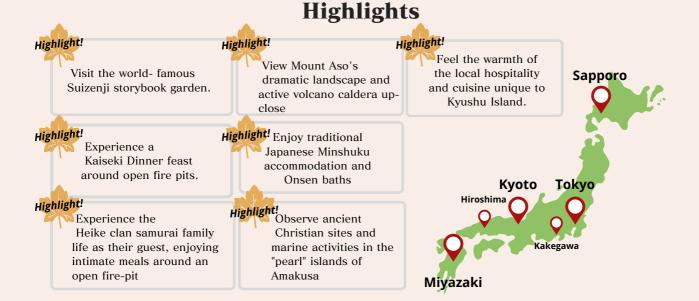


Private escort / guide in Japan



6 Nights' accommodation in Western & traditional Japanese ryokans

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



Your Japan Holidays Escort - Mr Ken Takenaga



Born in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu in southern Japan, Ken moved to the USA as a teenager. He was immersed in American culture and language, which he combines with his deep understanding of Japan's colourful history in a way few tour guides accomplish. Ken's passion for and profound knowledge of southern Japan's history and key historical sites plus his fluency in English make him the perfect guide for English-speaking tourists here. He is a rare combination of military precision, comprehensive knowledge, and genuine connection, qualities invaluable as a tour guide for both large groups or smaller custom tours. Ken has more than a decade of experience guiding groups.

ITINERARY

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Sat 14th October - Fri 20th October 2023

Kumamoto Arrival

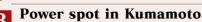
Arrive either at the Aso Kumamoto Airport or Kumamoto Station, where you'll be met by Ken Takenaga, your engaging guide throughout this tour. You are in for a full day of nature, culture, historical attractions and enjoyable shopping.

Accommodation: Kumamoto Castle Hotel (1 night)



Highlight! Today you will see first-hand why Kumamoto is referred to as "The Land of Fire and Water" . You' ll journey from the cataclysmic, volcanic formations in Aso Valley to the soothing, tranquil natural springs of Shirakawa.

Accommodation: Hotel Yume Shizuku (1 night)



After breakfast, we check out, then head for a "power spot" steeped in Japanese mythology. Places included on this day are Takachiho which is of profound religious importance and natural beauty, Takachiho Gorge and the Tsujunkyo Stone bridge, built in 1854.

Accommodation: Heiko-So Minshuku (2 nights) - your life may be forever changed spending 2nights at this traditional, remote inn.

Kumamoto

After breakfast at the Hotel depart for Gokanosho dubbed "Land of the Last Samurai" . Villages here are the home of the Heike clan's fugitive legend and this location is a rare treat for tourists enjoyed by a privilaged few. Along the way aside from the breathtaking views stops will be made at Sendan Totodo Waterfall and Suspension Bridges.

Accommodation: Heiko-So Minshuku and feast around an open fire pit.

Hidden Christians

Say goodbye to Gokanosho after a sumptuous Japanese breakfast and leave for Amakusa. travelling by a private vehicle over the 5 scenic famous bridges. First we will move to the Christian Museum and learn about the history of the Hidden Christians in Amakusa

Accommodation: Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel (1 night)

Shimabara and Takeo City

After breakfast, we will depart Amakusa on a vehicular ferry to Shimabara and visit the ruins of Hara Castle, Mt Fugen and Shimabara Castle. Then an afternoon sightseeing in Takeo City before a sumptuous kaiseki dinner. Accommodation: Takeo Onsen Hotel Toyokan (1 night)

Takeo City departure

Depart Takeo City after a traditional Japanese breakfast for your next destination.

End of Tour.... Sayonava!



Suizenji Garden

A magical tour in miniature of the 53 post stations of the Tokaido is arrayed in this beautifully blossomed, storybook Japanese garden.



Nakadake Active Volcano

Weather and nature permitting, we'll check out Mt. Naka, an active crater, which has been actively rumbling and spewing smoke for the past 70 years.



Takachiho Gorge

Resembling the scales of a dragon, the steep walls of this dramatic, narrow gorge cut through solid rock of the Gokase River.



Gokansho

Dubbed "Land of the Last Samurai", Gokanosho is hidden in the secluded forests of Kumamoto Prefecture.



Amakusa

Amakusa is well known for the "Hidden Christians" who secretly kept their faith for about 400 years.



Kaiseki Dinner

At the end of the day, return to the hotel to relax in the spa before indulging in a fabulous, multi-course kaiseki dinner..

Highlight!



Takeo City

Takeo Onsen is a hot spring town in western Saga Prefecture that is said to have a history of over 1300 years.

Contact us

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Email: info@japanholidays.com.au Website: www.japanholidays.com.au

Address: P.O. Box 1175, Kingscliff NSW 2487 Australia



KYUSHU AUTUMN LEAVES TOUR NOV 2023

Sat 4th November - Fri 10th November 2023 From \$5,520 Per Person Twin share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



7 Days / 6 Nights tour

Begin: Friday 4th November 2023 in Tokyo End: Friday 10th November 2023 in Fukuoka



\$5520 per person - Twin Share

(Single Supplement - \$1,500) *Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners



Accommodation Western & Japanese style



Transfers, Tours & Entrances as per Itinerary

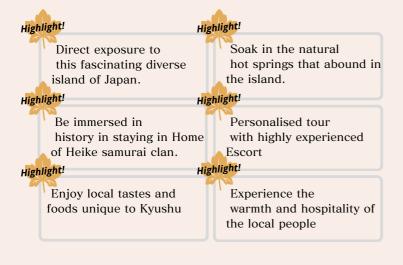


Private Escort Guide in Japan

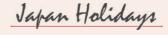
Exclusion: International or domestic airfares / Entrance fees & Meals not shown in itinerary

Highlights

Escorted by a local Historian with unsurpassed knowledge of Kyushu. Places visited and insights gained on this tour are all unique to Japan Holidays. This tour is perfectly suited for persons seeking to gain valuable knowledge of remote Japan. A small group tour with personalized attention to detail. Experience local cuisine and hospitality unique to countryside Japan. Seasonally a perfect time to visit Kyushu.







The dynamism that is Kyushu --- the southernmost major island of Japan. A series of volcanic ranges, including the world's largest active volcanic crater, Mount Aso, are located in Kyushu. Kyushu's strategic position near South Korea and China have allowed it to act as a focal point of cultural, religious, and artistic exchanges since the ancient Japanese world. The arrival of the Europeans to Kyushu also started during this time. In the later years, the Nagasaki port of Kyushu started receiving Western trade. Ill fate, however, met the island when, during World War II, on August 9th, 1945, Nagasaki was ravaged by the atomic bomb. So much to see and so much to experience in this small island.



Your Japan Holidays Escort - Mr Ken Takenaga

Born in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu in southern Japan, Ken moved to the USA as a teenager. He was immersed in American culture and language, which he combines with his deep understanding of Japan's colourful history in a way few tour guides accomplish. Ken's passion for and profound knowledge of southern Japan's history and key historical sites plus his fluency in English make him the perfect guide for English-speaking tourists here. He is a rare combination of military precision, comprehensive knowledge, and genuine connection, qualities invaluable as a tour guide for both large groups or smaller custom tours. Ken has more than a decade of experience guiding groups.

ITINERARY

4th November - 10th November 2023

TOKYO - KUMAMOTO

Depart Haneda on a flight to Kumamoto. Upon arrival, Ken Takenaga, will meet you and be your guide throughout the tour. Kumamoto City sightseeing will include Suizenji Japanese Garden and a Jyosai En Cultural Center to experience the history of Kumamoto, Enjoy dinner at one of Kumamoto's favourite restaurants.

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Suizenji Garden

En route to the Kumamoto City, the tour will first stop at the Suizenji Japanese Garden, one of the most acclaimed gardens in Japan

Accommodation: Kumamoto Castle Hotel (2 nights)

KUMAMOTO - MT ASO

Today you will see first-hand why Kumamoto is referred to as The Land of Fire and Water. Enjoy a spectacular 360 degree view of the Aso Valley and the Five Mountains of Aso.

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Mt Aso

After breakfast, we will drive to Daikanbou Observation Point to view the World largest Caldera measuring more than 120 km around

GOKANOSHO

The Land of the Last Samurai, Gokanosho is located in the centre of

Kumamoto Prefecture and is often called the last secluded region in

Kyushu. These villages are known as the "Home of the Heike fugitive

legend" or the Hidden Samurai.

Accommodation: Kumamoto Castle Hotel



Gokansho

Gokanosho with its combination of waterfalls, mountains and dense forest offers an escape into a splendid piece of natural scenery never seen on regular sightseeing tours of Japan.

Accommodation: Heiko-So Minshuku (1 night)

AMAKUSA

Say goodbye to Gokanosho after a sumptuous Japanese breakfast

and leave for Amakusa, enjoying a scenic drive over five picturesque

Accommodation: Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel (1 night)

bridges strung out like a strand of pearls.

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Amakusa is well known for the "Hidden Christians" who secretly kept their faith for about 400 years.

SHIMABARA and TAKEO CITY

An exciting day of castles, conflict and kaiseki, we begin with a vehicular ferry from Amakusa to Shimabara to see the ruins of Hara Castle, the battleground of the Christian rebellion in the year 1637.

Accommodation: Takeo Onsen Hotel Toyokan (1 night)



Takeo Shrine

This ancient Shinto Shrine. reputed to be 1.200 years old, is also the location of a unique treasure: a magnificent, 3,000-year-old camphor tree.

HIRADO CITY

After breakfast, we will depart Takeo for Hirado City, the western-most tip of Japan. Hirado was a major gateway to the world as early as 8th century. We visit Tabira Park to view overall city of Hirado, then Hirado Castle and the Matsuura Museum. Then a drive to Ikitsuki Island on the Sunset Road and a visit to Obae Lighthouse..

In the evening, enjoy a sumptuous Kaiseki dinner and your own in-room Onsen bath.

Accommodation: Ryotei Hirado Saigetsuan (1 night)



Hirado Castle

Hirado Castle, built in 1599 by the Matsuura Lord, stands on a hill guarding Hirado Port and the Hirado Strait, which used to be part of an important trade route between Japan and the Asian mainland

DEPARTURE

After Breakfast and checking out we will depart for Fukuoka for your next destination.

Option to also continue travel to other parts of Japan please consult Japan Holidays for more details on your itinerary.

Contact us

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Email: info@japanholidays.com.au Website: www.japanholidays.com.au

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CLASSIC AUTUMN TOUR NOV 2023

Sat 18th November - Wed 29th November 2023 From \$8350 Per Person Twin Share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



11 Nights / 12 Days

Begin: Saturday 18th November 2023 in Tokyo End: Wednesday 29th November 2023 in Kyoto



\$8,350 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement - \$1,700) *Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



Daily Breakfast, 8 Lunches & 3 Dinners



11 nights in quality accommodations



Private escort / guides in Japan



Transfers, tours and entrance fees listed on the tour



Forwarding of one item of luggage on one occasion

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

Highlights

Highlight!

Tokyo's outstanding sites against a stunningbackdrop of Mt. Fuji

Experience Highligh

Highlight!
Experience the speed and shinkansen as you reach far-flung destionations in mere

Highlight!

Spend a day in Kyoto renowned for its for Nishiki food market, malls and temples and shrines.

Highlight!

dinner

Highlight!

Try your hand at some traditional arts such as Washi paper making and Gold Leaf in our private classes.

sleeping on futons the

Japanese way and a

traditional kaiseki



Explore several UNESCO World Heritage sites





Your Japan Holidays Tour Leader - Mrs Juliane Suzuki

Juliane spent almost 20 years living and working in Japan as an interpreter before moving back to Australia in 2015 and joining the Japan Holidays team. Travelling extensively throughout Japan and living in different regions of the country with her Japanese husband and bicultural children has given Juliane a really unique insight into this culture and lifestyle that few foreigners get to experience. Juliane loves being able to utilise her language skills and share her knowledge of Japan with clients to ensure they have the best possible experience during their time in Japan.

ITINERARY

18th November 2023 - 29th November

TOKYO Arrival

Arrive at Tokyo's Narita International Airport. After clearing Customs, you'll be met by a guide who will escort you to a shared shuttle bus to your hotel.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza, Tokyo (4 nights)

Tokyo Highlight!

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2 Full Day TOKYO

You'll be met at the hotel by a Japan Holidays tour guide who will show you some of Tokyo's top sites. The Metropolitan Govenment Building offers stunning aerial views of the city, including Mt. Fuji, Tokyo Tower and Meiji Shrine. Sensoji Temple, completed in 645 AD, is Tokyo's oldest and most colourful Buddhist temple in the vibrant Asakusa shopping district. Shop for local crafts and delicious food items on Nakamise-dori, where generations of artisans have sold their wares. Stroll the timeless Imperial Gardens; then enjoy the juxtaposition of skyscrapers that encircle the tranquil Hamarikyu Garden. We'll end the day with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.





3 HAKONE Day Tour

Mt Fuji/Hakone day tour - Your guide will meet you at the hotel for another full day of site-seeing. We will travel by bullet train to visit Hakone, a lovely town renowned for its hot springs and postcard views of soaring Mt. Fuji. You'll hop on a cable car through town, skim above the trees on the ropeway, and enjoy a cruise on the sapphire blue caldera of Lake Ashi.



Lake Ashinoko was formed in the caldera of Mount Hakone after the volcano's last eruption 3000 years ago.



4. Full Day KAMAKURA

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 - Daibutsu - gazes over the city's temples and traditional gardens. Dinner is on your own, with recommendations upon your request.

Note: Your suitcase will be forwarded to Kyoto this evening, so pack some essentials for the next few days.

Kamakura





5 TOKYO - TAKAYAMA

We travel by high-speed shinkansen to the timeless mountain town of Hida-Takayama. Renowned for its timber that was widely used in feudal times, Takayama is a rare treasure with a preserved old town. Explore the museums, scenic castle and temple walks, and the open-air folk village.

Accommodation: Hida Hotel Plaza, Takayama

Shinkansen (Bullet train)





6 TAKAYAMA - KANAZAWA

Today, you travel back in time - a few thousand years! - to the ancient, isolated village of **Shirakawa-go**. Nestled in steep, thick forest, this UNESCO Heritage site features unique, "gassho zukuri"-roofed houses, which resemble hands joined in prayer. Nearby, historic hot-springs in Hirase offer a postcard-perfect setting for the spring waters renowned for promoting beautiful skin. We continue on to Kanazawa after exploring this picturesque area.

Accommodation: Mystays Premier Kanazawa (2 nights)

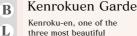
Highlight! Shirakawa-go UNESCO World Heritage sites





KANAZAWA

Day tour of Kanazawa - Enjoy a relaxing day exploring historical Kanazawa Castle and the enchanting Kenrokuen Garden nearby. The Edo-era castle was the seat of power second only to the Tokugawa in its day. Several museums, crafts and gardens surround the castle, and you can also stroll the adjacent renowned Kenrokuen Garden. One of the finest landscape gardens in Japan, Kenrokuen will be the perfect spot with the autumn foliage for spectacular photos!



Kenroku-en, one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan displays the six attributes of a perfect garden.



8 KYOTO Free Day

After a buffet breakfast, we'll take a bullet train to Kyoto and check in to our accommodation. You'll have the rest of the day to explore this fascinating city. Your guide can provide recommendations, or you can check out several options: you can spend hours in the sprawling Nishiki Food Market with several blocks of tempting stalls selling exotic foods, textiles, housewares and unique gift items; take an evening stroll in the romantic Gion Geisha District; or perhaps you'd enjoy Kyoto Station's bustling, multi-story mall with endless opportunities for gift shopping and food courts.

Accommodation: Intergate Shijo Shinmachi Hotel, Kyoto (4 nights)

Nishiki Market

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Nishiki Market is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants



MIYAJIMA & HIROSHIMA

We travel to Hiroshima via bullet train early in the morning for our Miyajima & Hiroshima Day Tour - You'll take a scenic ferry to Miyajima Island, with its iconic, "floating" torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine. You'll also view the stunning, vermillion Five Storey Pagoda and lovely foliage at the Daishoin Temple. Today's lunch will be the famous Hiroshima-style Okonomiyaki. We then head over to Hiroshima's world-renowned Peace Memorial Park and visit to Ground Zero. The museum here explores the advent of the nuclear bomb and its explosive impact.







KYOTO Day Tour

Private Day Tour of Kyoto - Wear comfortable shoes to explore Kyoto's most famous sites today. Your English-speaking guide will take you on a full day's tour of: the UNESCO site - Nijojo Castle - with its impressive palace architecture and singing "nightingale" floors; the shimmering Golden Pavilion, with its Zen temple and tranquil grounds; Kyoto's Imperial Palace and gardens, which used to house the Imperial Family; Heian Jingu Shrine, dedicated to Kyoto's first and last emperors; and finishing off the day of history and culture at Kiyomizudera, with its spectacular view of Kyoto and sacred water rituals for long life and love.





NARA

Day Tour of Nara - Nara was established in the 8th century, when powerful Buddhists challenged the government's control. The city brims with historical treasures, temples, and parks. You'll tour Todaji Temple with it's imposing architecture and enormous bronze Buddha, the celebrated Shinto Kasuga Shrine, dedicated to the deity who protects the city, and Nara Park, filled with wild deer, which are revered in Nara.

Izakaya.

Nara



Tonight, we return to Kyoto to enjoy a farewell dinner in Kyoto at a local

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KYOTO - Departure Day

After breakfast, your guide will assist you with your transfers for further travel in Japan or your flight home.

End of Tour....

Sayonava!

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Email: info@japanholidays.com.au Website: www.japanholidays.com.au

Address: P.O. Box 1175, Kingscliff NSW 2487

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CLASSIC CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR MAR 2024

Wed 20th March - Tues 2nd April 2024 From \$10,600 Per Person Twin Share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



13 Nights / 14 Days

Begins: Wednesday 20th March 2024 in Tokyo

Ends: Tues 2nd April 2024 in Kyoto



\$10,600pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement - \$2,200)

Inclusions



Daily Breakfast, 7 Lunches & 4 Dinners



13 nights in quality accommodations



Private Tour Leader & guides in Japan



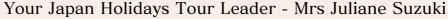
Transfers, trains, tours and entrance fees listed on the tour



Forwarding of one item of luggage on 2 occasions

Exclusions: International or domestic airfares / Entrance fees, meals & beverages not shown in itinerary







Juliane spent almost 20 years living and working in Japan as an interpreter before moving back to Australia in 2015 and joining the Japan Holidays team. Travelling extensively throughout Japan and living in difference regions of the country with her Japanese husband and bicultural children has given Juliane a really unique insight into this culture and lifestyle that few foreigners get to experience. Juliane loves being able to utilise her language skills and share her knowledge of Japan with clients to ensure they have the best possible experience during their time in Japan.

ITINERARY

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20th March - 2nd April 2024

1 TOKYO Arrival

Arrive at Tokyo's Narita or Haneda International Airport. After clearing customs, you'll be met by a meet n' greet assistant who will escort you to a shared shuttle bus to your hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel, your Japan Holidays' Tour Leader, Juliane Suzuki, will be there to greet you and help settle you in. Juliane will remain with you for the entire tour.

Accommodation: Shiba Park Hotel, Tokyo (4 nights)

2 Full Day TOKYO

Today we have a Full Day Tour of Tokyo with our local expert guide to show us all the must-see sights and some hidden gems as well. This evening Japan Holidays will host a **Welcome Dinner** at a local restaurant.

3 Full Day KAMAKURA

Today we visit the ancient Capital of Kamakura for a Full Day Tour. We

visit the historical sites and a serene bamboo grove to revitalise ourselves with an authentic cup of matcha tea.

Morning Tour TOKYO

With so much to see and do in Tokyo, we've added another morning

tour with one of our expert local guides. The afternoon will be spent at your leisure or shopping till you drop.

Note: Your suitcase will be forwarded to Kanazawa this evening, so pack some essentials for the next three days.

TOKYO to HAKONE

This morning we travel to the hot springs town of Hakone, via **bullet train**, where we will have 2 nights to enjoy the area and gaze upon the icon **Mt Fuji**. Our ryokan is situated right on Lake Ashi, giving you a view of the magnificent mountain from your room! After dropping our bags, we will walk in the footsteps of merchants, lords and princesses along the Old Cedar path in Hakone, which is part of the route that connected Kyoto & Tokyo (Edo) during the Edo period. We will also visit Hakone Shrine and there will be time to shop for local souvenirs as well. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional Kaiseki dinner.

Accommodation: Ryokan Ryuguden, Lake Ashi Hakone

6 HAKONE

Today we get to explore more of Hakone with our **Private guide.** At a leisurely pace, we will cruise across Lake Ashi on the pirate ship and take the gondola up to Owakudani, which is another great vantage point of Mt Fuji before exploring other locations this beautiful area.

After a day of exploring, the hot springs at our Ryokan will soothe any aches and pains.

Accommodation: Ryokan Ryuguden, Lake Ashi Hakone

Tokyo Highlight!











Kamakura









Cedar Avenue Highlight!





Highlight!





Kaiseki Cuisine

HAKONE to KANAZAWA We say goodbye to Hakone this

We say goodbye to Hakone this morning and some wonderful memories of Mt Fuji. Two high-speed **bullet trains** will have us in Kanazawa by early afternoon, where we have 3 nights.

Accommodation: My Stays Premier, Kanazawa (3 nights)

8 KANAZAWA

Our **private guide** will take us on a tour of the must see sights in Kanazawa via **chartered bus.** Enjoy a relaxing day exploring historical **Kanazawa Castle**, the enchanting **Kenrokuen Garden**, **Higashi-chaya** Geisha district and the **Samurai houses**. One of the finest landscape gardens in Japan, Kenrokuen will be bursting with Cherry Blossoms for spectacular photos!

Note: Suitcases will be forwarded to Kyoto this evening.

9 SHIRAKAWA-GO & TAKAYAMA

This morning we travel via **chartered bus** to Takayama first for some shopping in the morning markets before walking through the old preserved streets of Sanmachi. We then take the scenic route to the World Heritage Listed village of Shirakawa-go, famous for its unique Gassho-zukuri styled farmhouses. After lunch, we'll visit a sake brewery and try our hands at traditional paper 'washi' making before heading back to Kanazawa.

KANAZAWA to KYOTO

We depart for Kyoto mid-morning, taking the famous **thunderbird train** to Kyoto. The afternoon is yours to relax and explore on your own or you may wish to do some extra activities such as a tea ceremony or cooking class.

Accommodation: Hotel Intergate Shijo Shinmachi (4 nights)

КҮОТО

Our Day Tour of Kyoto by private bus includes all the mustsee locations in Kyoto from the iconic temples of **Kiyomizudera** and the Golden pavilion of **Kinkakuji** to the beautifully preserved streets around Ninenzaka and the tranquil rock garden of Ryoanji. All surrounded by magnificent cherry blossoms, it's truly a beautiful day!!

HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA

Miyajima & Hiroshima Day Tour – An early bullet train direct to Hiroshima and a ferry transports us to magical Miyajima Island with its iconic, "floating" torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine. Our local guide knows all the back streets ensuring we get the best vantage points. We then explore Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and visit Ground Zero. The museum here explores the advent of the nuclear bomb and its explosive impact.

NARA

Day Tour of Nara - Nara was established in the 8th Century when powerful Buddhists challenged the government's control. The city brims with historical treasures, temples, and parks where Nara's famous wild deer will bow to you to get one of their designated 'deer treats.' Tonight, we return to Kyoto to enjoy a Farewell Dinner in a local Izakaya restaurant.

KYOTO - Departure Day

Departure day - After breakfast, Juliane will assist you with your transfers for further travel in Japan or your flight home.

End of Tour.... Saysnava!

Higashi-chaya

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Shirakawa-go





Takayama





Kyoto





Hiroshima & Miyajima









Contact us

Call: + 61 2 6674 4185

Email: info@japanholidays.com.au Website: www.japanholidays.com.au

Address: P.O. Box 1175, Kingscliff NSW 2487 Australia



CHERRY BLOSSOM TRAIL & LAST SAMURAI TOUR KYUSHU MAR 2024

Fri 22nd March - Sat 30th March 2024 From \$6,515 Per Person Twin share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



9 Days / 8 Nights tour

Begin: Friday 22nd March 2024 in Fukuoka End: Saturday 30th March 2024 in Takeo



(Single Supplement - \$1,500)
*Subject to exchange rate

Inclusions



Daily Breakfast, Lunches & 8 Dinners



Private escort / guide in Japan



Transfers, tours and entrance fees listed on the tour



8 Nights accommodation Western & traditional Japanese Ryokans

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

Tour commences in Fukuoka and finishes in Takeo City.

Highlights

Japan's annual Cherry Blossom season attracts multitudes with its lacy, pastel beauty. On this unforgettable tour you'll enjoy the colours, culture and creative history of Japan. Scenic drives, historical landmarks, soothing spas and even a creative workshop will colour your senses in a way that no other country can offer.

Highlight!

View spectacular cherry blossoms and picturesque waterfalls.

Highlight! Highlight!

traditional handicrafts
such as indigo dyeing and
pottery making

Stroll through
colorful Japanese
gardens of Kumamoto

Highlight!

Highlight!

Experience Heike clan samurai family life as their guest, enjoying intimate meals around an open fire-pit.

Feel the warmth of the local hospitality and cuisine unique to the Kyushu area.



Your Japan Holidays Escort - Mr Ken Takenaga



Born in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu in southern Japan, Ken moved to the USA as a teenager. He was immersed in American culture and language, which he combines with his deep understanding of Japan's colourful history in a way few tour guides accomplish. Ken's passion for and profound knowledge of southern Japan's history and key historical sites plus his fluency in English make him the perfect guide for English-speaking tourists here. He is a rare combination of military precision, comprehensive knowledge, and genuine connection, qualities invaluable as a tour guide for both large groups or smaller custom tours. Ken has more than a decade of experience guiding groups.

ITINERARY

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22nd March - 30th March 2024

Fly to FUKUOKA

Depart Tokyo after breakfast for a short flight to Fukuoka, where you' ll be met at the airport by Ken Takenaga, your engaging guide throughout this tour. You' re in for a day of cultural immersion and uniquely Japanese entertainment.

Accommodation: Kumamoto Castle Hotel (3 nights)

KUMAMOTO

You are in for a full day of nature, culture, historical attractions and enjoyable shopping.



Today you will see first-hand why Kumamoto is referred to as The Land of Fire and Water. Stunning views and refreshing spring waters will quench your spirits.

GOKANOSHO

Today we travel into the past to Gokanosho, the very cauldron of conflict between warring samurai clans.

Accommodation: Heiko-So Minshuku, (1 night)

AMAKUSA

We leave Gokanosho after a traditional Japanese breakfast, before embarking on a beautiful drive to Japan's pearl enclave. We then visit a site rich with religious history and unspoken secrets, before ending the day with an amazing seafood dinner at our hotel

Accommodation: Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel, (2 nights)

AMAKUSA

Today's drive treats you to opalescent scenes along the East China Sea, past verdant rice fields, and to sites of religious significance entwining East with West over many centuries.

SHIMABARA

After breakfast, we take a short ferry to Shimabara, where you' ll enjoy an exciting day of castles and conflict, tales of explosive volcanology, topped off with a good hot soak in a historic spa.

Accommodation: Takeo Onsen Hotel Toyokan (1 night)

TAKEO CITY

We combine a deep appreciation for nature with hands-on creativity today, as we wrap up a memorable tour with a genuine, hand-crafted article to remember the trip by.

Accommodation: Takeo Onsen Hotel Toyokan, (1 night)

TAKEO CITY

Japan's ceramics and pottery industries are legend. Before leaving Japan, you' ll tour one of the most renowned ceramic centers in the country in Arita, and have a last opportunity to buy that special gift or keepsake!







































End of Tour....

Sayonava!



TOHOKU CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR APR 2024

Sun 7th April - Mon 15th April 2024 From\$8610 Per Person Twin share

TOUR DESCRIPTION



9 Days / 8 Nights

Begm. Sunday 7th April in Tokyo End: Monday 15th April in Tokyo



\$8610 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement \$1,390 pp.) *Subject to exchange rate.

Inclusions



8 daily breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners



8 nights premium accommodation



Private escort, & tour guide

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

Highlights

Japan's Tohoku – or northestern – region is rich with history, natural beauty and noteworthy cultural sites. This tour will immerse you in all of this, including ancient temples, shrines, samurai residential areas, castles, and local crafts – all set against the fragrant beauty of peak cherry blossom season. You'll enjoy scenic countryside, high-speed bullet trains and peaceful ryokan inns at day's end. The tour begins and ends in Tokyo – a city of unparalleled shopping, tourism and activities to introduce you to Japan's commercial side. To peer into Japan's soul, you'll need to see the timeless Tohoku region, unique for its mountains, gorges, forests, natural beauty and ancient samurai culture and lifestyle.





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ITINERARY

7th April 2024 - 15th April 2024

TOKYO Arrival

Arrive at either Narita Int'l Airport or Haneda Int'l Airport. The Park Hotel Tokyo is located on the 25th floor of the Shiodome Media Tower downtown, where you'll enjoy a stunning panorama of the city from your window.

Accommodation: Park Hotel Tokyo (2 nights)



2 TOKYO

You'll be met by your English-speaking tour guide and embark on a day-long tour of Tokyo. Among many highlights o the day will be the **Imperial Palace**, **Meiji Shrine**, **Omotesando** shopping area, **Ginza** district, and **Hama Rikyu Gardens**. We'll travel on Tokyo's super-efficient public transportation.





TOKYO- KORIYAMA

We'll travel to Koriyama, gateway to Fukushima's mountain ranges to the east and west. Your guide, Ken Takenaga, will meet you. Your first stop by private bus is the famed **Tsuruga Castle**. After a local lunch, we'll continue on to **Bukeyashiki Aizu** samurai residence. We end the day at **Ouchijuku**, a former post town in a beautiful mountain setting.

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Accommodation: Ashinomaki Onsen Okawaso, Aizu

4 KORIYAMA -KITAKAMI - HANAMAKI

Today, we'll travel leisurely by car to our destination, stopping en-route at the famous Tenshochi Park in Kitakami. Registered as one of the 100 Best Sakura Viewing Sites in Japan. After that, you'll be ready to relax in a steaming hot springs bath at our onsen inn tonight.

Accommodation : Osawa Onsen





5 HANAMAKI – MORIOKA

After breakfast, we will depart for Morioka, with a stop at the Morioka Handy-Works Square. This amazing cultural craft "village" offers workshops as well as a wide range of stores selling popular gift items by master craftsmen. After lunch we will visit poplar cherry blossom spots in the area. Accommodation: Hotel Metropolitan (3 nights)



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6 MORIOKA – HIRAIZUMI

We depart Morioka and head south to Hiraizumi and its top attraction: **Chusonji Buddhist Temple**. This Tendaisect Buddhist temple commands a spectacular view of cherry blossoms in full bloom. Among the few remaining sites here is the fabulous

Golden Pavilion, completely covered in gold leaf. .





7 MORIOKA – KAKUNODATE

Today, you' Il step back in time to the samurai era in fabled **Kakunodate**. The wide open streets lined by a lacy canopy of cherry blossoms frames a picture-perfect view into the past. There are museums, gift shops, gardens and architecture to explore here. Tonight we' Il meet up for a farewell dinner with your guide.





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8 MORIOKA - AOMORI

Check out from your hotel after breakfast and depart for Aomori. Upon arrival, we will pick up our car and depart for the Sannai-Maruyama Site. After lunch, we will depart for the Hirosaki City- renowned as one of best places to see cherry blossoms in Japan.

Accommodation: to be advised





9 AOMORI - TOKYO

Depart for Tokyo by bullet train viewing the countryside while enjoying onboard snacks and beverages.

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End of Tour.... Sayonava!







Tokyo Brick Bread(Red Bean Paste with Whip Cream)

⊘It Was Branded as Tokyo Station⊘You Can Buy only in Tokyo Station⊘You May Need to Get Them in Early Time⊘Special Treat for You

東京あんぱん 豆一豆(まめいちず)

エキュート東京店(Tokyo Anpan (Mame Ichizu) ecute Tokyo) 「東京レンガぱん」(Tokyo Renga Pan) 【Price】 287 yen/ each 【Best Before Date】 2Days After Buying

Tokyo Station biscuit

✓ You Can Buy Only at Tokyo Station✓ It is shaped Tokyo Station✓ You can get Butter & Chocolate Flavor in One Box.

Fairycake Fair グランスタ店 (Fairycake Fair Gransta)

「トーキョーステーションビスケット 缶」 (Tokyo Station Biscuit can) 【Price】840 yen 【Best Before Date】Almost 2Months



Butter Pie SABRINA



- ⊘Made with Awaed-Winning Butter.
- ⊘Possible winter-exclusive chocolate-coated find.⊘Sabrina and Palmiers which are popular items, sells out rapidly.

薫バター Sabrina 東京グランスタ店 (Kaoru Butter Sabrina Tokyo Gransta)

「サブリナ(6個入り)」(Sabrina 6p) / 「パルミエ(5個入り)」(Parumie 5p) 【Price】Sabrina: 1,080 yen/ Parumie: 1,188 yen



Hakone-teramisu



- ⊘Made to order for exquisite taste.
- ⊘Uses locally roasted coffee beans.
- ⊘Beautifully presented and Instagramworthy.



Castella Manjuu

By Kikukawa Shouten

- ⊘Soft and fluffy cake-like treats with white been paste.
- ⊙Traditional Japanese confectionery shop.
- ⊘Loved by locals and tourists alike.

菊川商店(Kikukawa Shouten)

カステラ焼き箱根まんじゅう(Castella Yaki Hakone Manjuu) 【Price】70 yen 【Best Before Date】 4 days 【Access】2min walk from Hakone Yummoto Station

箱根てゑらみす(HAKONE TERAMISU)

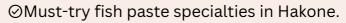
Teramisu (Plain/ Matcha/ Brandy) Soft Cream(Milk Mascarpone/ Esspresso/ Teramisu)

[Access] 2min walk from Hakone Yumoto Station. [Price] Teramisu ~600yen/ Soft cream ~540yen [Best Before Date] Teramisu: 2~4Days After Buying





Nerimono



⊘Suzuhiro Kamaboko's cheese-filled kamaboko: Exquisite and popular souvenir option.

⊘Marukiya's "Age Kamaboko" with a semi-cooked egg: Famous for its delicious fish paste products



まるきや (Marukiya)

半熟ばくだん (Hannjuku Bakudan)

[Access] 1min walk from Hakone Yumoto Station
[Price] 500yen [Best Before Date] As soon as possible

鈴廣かまぼこ(Suzuhiro Kamaboko)

ぶちかま(プレーン、チーズ、明太子マヨ)(Petit Kama:Plain, Cheese, Mentaiko mayonnaise)

[Access] Available at Marukiya

[Price] 730yen [Best Before Date] 7days from date of shiopment





Waco Baum

 \odot Inspired by the spirit of Kamakura.

- ⊘Multiple layers of deliciousness.

輪心-WACO KAMAKURA-

「輪心パウム」(Waco Baum) 【Access】 5min walk from Enoshima Dentetsu Line Hase Station 【Price】 300 yen 【Best Before Date】 10Days After Buying



Kurumicco

- ⊘Received the highest honor in a regional contest.

鎌倉紅谷 (Kamakura Beniya)

クルミっ子(Kurumicco)

Rat While Wallking around Kamakura Station

Buddha Cake at Tomoya



Deep-fried Minced Meat at Kamakura Menchi Katsu





Butter sugar Crape at Kokuriko



Boiled Whitebait Millefeuille

at Han Nari Inari



Rice Cracker



Kaga Hachiman Okiagari Monaka

 \odot .It is based on the Ishikawa Prefecture tourism PR mascot character.

⊘Traditional Kanazawa toy "Kaga Hachiman Okiiagari" made for warding off misfortune.

⊘Crispy and delicate outer shell⊘ Soft and fluffy red bean paste filling



金沢うら田 (Kanazawa URATA)

「加賀八幡 起上りもなか」(Kaga Hachiman Okiagari Monaka) 【Access】 Kanazawa Hyaku ban Gai Anto 【Price】173 yen 【Best Before Date】10Days After Buying





Kaichin

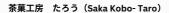
- ⊘"Kaichin" is a traditional Japanese sweet sold at Ishikawa Ya Honpo, a famous confectionery shop in Kanazawa.
- ⊘Japanese sugar plum
- ⊗Seasonal Kaichin variations.

石川屋本舗(Ishikwa Ya Honpo)

かいちん(Kaichin) 【Access】Kanazawa Hyaku Ban Gai Anto 【Price】864 yen 【Best Before Date】20days

Hanako To Taro

A moist and soft chocolate cake created by layering steamed matcha castella with cocoa-flavored sweet bean paste.
 Adorned with Kanazawa's renowned local product, gold leaf.
 Enhances the enjoyment of coffee.



はなことたろう(Hanako To Taro) 【Access】Kanazawa Hyaku Ban Gai Anto 【Price】972 yen 【Best Before Date】14~20days



Rakukgan -Wabi-

- ⊘Traditional Japanese sugar candy.
- ⊘Operating for approximately 200 years since the Edo period (1849~).



落雁 諸江屋(Rakugan Moroeya)

わび (Wabi) 【Access】 Kanazawa Hyaku Ban Gai Anto 【Price】 1080 yen 【Best Before Date】 90days

- Kyoto -

<u>Senju Senbei</u>



⊘Delight in the crispy texture offered by our thoughtfully selected domestically sourced wheat flour.

- ⊘Filled with a rich butter-flavored sugar cream.
- OLoved by a wide range of ages, from children to the elderly.

京都 | 鼓月 (Kyoto Kogetsu)

千寿せんべい(Senju Senbei) [Access] JR Kyoto Isetan B1F [Price] 1,134 yen [Best Before Date] 20days

Shirasa Syoujyouhi

(Strawberry Cake Flavor)

⊘"Syoujyouhi" is the name for the color considered the reddest among various shades of red in Japan.

- ⊘Over 20 flavors, all handcrafted by artisans, embodying unique Japanese colors and meanings.
- ⊘All candies are made in a factory in Kyoto.



京あめ(白砂猩々緋)(Kyo Ame Shirasa-Syoujyouhi) [Access] JR Kyoto Isetan B1F [Price] 540 yen [Best Before Date] 1year



Melting Cheese Cake



- ⊘Reports of solo consumption of a whole piece without even realizing it!
- ⊙There are also matcha and rum raisin flavors available.
- ⊘A local patisserie near Nijo Castle.

Beau, bel, belle!

とろけるチーズケーキ (Torokeru Cheese Cake) [Access] 5min walk from Nijo Castle [Price] 1,404 yen [Best Before Date] 2days

Kumihimo Card Case

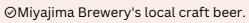
- ⊘Crafted by stitching together individual cords of Kumihimo, a traditional Japanese craft.
- ⊙Decorated with the iconic traditional Japanese arrow feather pattern called "Yagasuri."
- ⊙Experience the art of Kumihimo braiding firsthand at Uji flagship store.

昇苑くみひも (Shown Kumihimo)

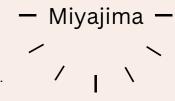
Card Holders
[Access] Available for purchase at Tenteden Taka-ji
Store, a 10-minute walk from Kiyomizu-dera Temple.
[Price] 6,050 yen



<u>Miyajima Beer</u>



- ⊘ Seasonal ingredients capturing the essence
- ⊘Stunning crimson Lager inspired by autumn leaves.
- ⊘Pale Ale with invigorating citrus notes.





宮島ビール(Miyajima Beer) 【Access】 3min walk from Itukushima Shrine



Momiji Lager & Pale Ale

<u>Momiji Manju</u>

- ⊙Delicious souvenir: Momiji Manju, a Miyajima classic.
- ⊘Soft cake filled with a variety of flavors, led by the classic red bean.
- ⊘Traditional confectionery loved by locals and tourists.
- ⊙This image on left side is collaborated with Doraemon, Japan's iconic anime. Normally it should be with a maple leaf shape.



にしき堂 (Nishiki Dou)

ドラえもんもみじ饅頭(Doraemon Momiji Manju) [Access] 10min walk from Itsukushima Shrine [Price] 130 yen [Best Before Date] 15 days



Pettara Pottara

- ⊙New specialty from Miyajima.
- ⊘Crispy and fragrant exterior, chewy and unique texture.
- ⊘Tender and flavorful eel, a natural ingredient inside.
- ⊘Savor the flavor of Hiroshima's renowned oysters.
- ⊙Made with locally grown glutinous and non-glutinous rice, along with fresh seafood

ペったらぽったら本舗 (Pettera Pottara Honpo)

ぺったらぼったら (Pettara Pottara) 【Access】 5 min walk from Itsukushima Shrine 【Price】 390 yen each

⊘ Hidden ⊘ Artist cr ⊘ Check si

Home and Fashon Goods

⊘Hidden shop in Miyajima's backstreets, Japan's scenic gem.
⊘Artist crafts and original French Bulldog merchandise sold in-store.
⊘Check shop's official Website for irregular business hours.

Trunk

[Access] 5 min walk from Itsukushima Shrine [Instagram] @trunk2007

Dekopon Jelly



⊙Dekopon is a citrus fruit originating from Kumamoto Prefecture, known for its refreshing and sweet flavor.
⊙Luxurious jelly infused with Dekopon juice and fruit, complemented by the texture of Nata de Coco.

⊘An exquisite jelly crafted in collaboration with knowledgeable farmers who understand the deliciousness of Dekopon.

熊本菓房 鶴屋百貨店 (Kumamoto Kabou Tsuruya Hyakka Tan)

デコポンゼリー (Dekopon Jelly) [Access] 5min walk from Kumamoto Castle (Tsuruya Hyakka Ten B1F) [Price] 1,166 yen/ 2pic [Best Before Date] 180days



Kuri Senri

- ⊘Moist baked Mont Blanc with Kumamoto-grown chestnuts.
- ⊘2018 Japan Sweets Ranking: Grand Prix Winner.
- ⊘Rich chestnut cream filling inside
- ⊘Popular as a Kumamoto souvenir.

福田屋 鶴屋百貨店 (Fukuda Ya Tsuruya Hyakka Ten)

栗千里 (Kuri Senri)

[Access] 5min walk from Kumamoto Castle (Tsuruya Hyakka ten)

[Price] 675 yen/ 5pic [Best Before Date] 1 month

Raw Sugar Stick Daughnuts

⊘Crispy exterior, moist interior. Popular treat with the unique richness and sweetness of black sugar.

⊘Made with premium Okinawan black sugar and carefully selected domestic wheat flour.

フジバンビ 鶴屋百貨店 (Fuji Bambi Tsuruya Hyakka Ten)

黒糖ドーナツ棒(Koku tou Doughnuts Bou) 【Access】 5min walk from Kumamoto Castle (Tsuruya Hyakka Ten) 【Price】 520 yen/ 12pic 【Best Before Date】 40~120 days



<u>Kumamoto Ikinari Dango</u>



⊘"Kuma Jun's Ikinari Dango" features layers of delicate red bean paste atop Satsumaimo (sweet potato), wrapped in a thin skin and steamed.

⊘Made with locally sourced Beni Haruka sweet potatoes, providing a delightful, comforting texture.

くま純 (Kumajyun)

熊本いきなり団子 (Kumamoto Ikinari Dango) [Access] 15min walk from Kumamoto Castle [Price] 1,840 yen/10pic [Best Before Date] 2 months



Nama Nanbu Sabure

⊘Moist and soft biscuit-like pastry.

⊘Delicately sweet chocolate cream filling

⊙The original Nanbu senbei, which inspired this product, has a rustic and somewhat nostalgic flavor. It is also highly recommended.

嚴手屋(Iwate Ya)

生南部サブレ。チョコ(Nama Nanbu Sabure Chocolate) 【Available】南部せんべい巌手屋 盛岡フェザン店 (Nanbu Senbei Iwateya Morioka Fezan Ten) 【Price】712 yen/ 6pic 【Best Before Date】50 days

ganso Ika Senbei

- ⊘The original squid senbei, a historic rice cracker that was the first in Japan to use seafood as an ingredient in sweets.
- ⊘Savory squid-shaped rice crackers.
- ⊘Made with extracts and powder from fresh Pacific flying squid caught in Sanriku.
- ⊘The image on the right is a special box of squid senbei packed in a Sanriku Railway-themed packaging.

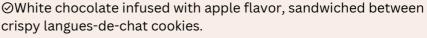
すがた (Sugata)

元祖いかせんべい (Ganso Ika Senbei)

[Available] JR盛岡駅2F 大地館 (JR Morioka Station 2F Daichi Kan) [Price] 771 yen [Best Before Date] 90 days

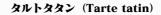


Apple Sand



⊘a hidden secret ingredient: salt from Iwate Prefecture's Miyako region.

⊘Each box contains a rare Apple Sandwich with an apple-shaped marking, bringing luck to those fortunate enough to find it.



アップルサンド(Apple Sand) [Available] タルトタタンフェザン店 (Tarte tatin Fezan Ten) [Price] 712 yen/ 6pic [Best Before Date] 60 days

