

# Japan: Temples, Treasures, and Teahouses

FROM MATSUE TO TAKAYAMA, WITH A SEASONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM OR FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL



## TRIP DATES

2025

Apr 3-16, 2025 Cherry Blossom Festival

2026

Apr 3-16, 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival  
Sep 28-Oct 11, 2026 Fall Foliage Festival



ITINERARY	3
TRIP COST, PAYMENT & INSURANCE	6
TRIP LEADER	7
ACCOMMODATIONS	8
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE	10
TRIP DETAILS	11
TOUCAN CLUB	13



## Japan: Temples, Treasures, and Teahouses

FROM MATSUE TO TAKAYAMA, WITH A SEASONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM OR FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

Our special journey reveals fascinating “insider” aspects of Japanese culture that travelers might not find on their own. We begin in Matsue on the northwest coast, exploring the city’s 400-year-old feudal castle and the elegant samurai houses encircling it. In the hidden gem of Kinosaki Onsen, a traditional hot springs town filled with the culture of old Japan, we soak in classic hot springs and savor fresh-caught seafood. We’ll walk the storied lanes of Kyoto, seeking off-the-beaten path temples and gardens, with a grand finale in Takayama in the Japanese Alps, where we’ll join in the fun of a seasonal festival, celebrating the arrival of cherry blossoms in spring and the colorful fall foliage in autumn. Artisan visits, onsen baths, culinary treats, and the warm hospitality of the Japanese welcome us at every turn.



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# Itinerary

## DAY 1 OSAKA

Arrive in Osaka, clear formalities, and walk over to the hotel, which is located in the airport aeroplaza. We gather for our trip briefing and Welcome Dinner this evening. Overnight at the Nikko Kansai Airport Hotel...D

## DAYS 2-4 MATSUE / IZUMO TAISHA SHRINE

A scenic train ride brings us to Matsue. We'll spend three nights in this city, enjoying accommodations in one of our favorite ryokans on the river—a great way to experience the Japanese way of life. Matsue is attractively located at the eastern shores of Lake Shinji near the Sea of Japan. We start our explorations with a visit to Matsue Castle, which has one of Japan's largest original castle towers. The cherry blossoms at the castle will hopefully be in bloom on our spring departures and in the fall, the foliage may be quite vivid, enhancing our visit here. We then walk through the samurai quarters nearby to visit a finely preserved samurai home, with its striking traditional architecture and beautiful serene gardens.

On Day 3, we take a short train ride to Izumo to visit the Izumo Taisha shrine, and it will be a highlight for many. The shrine is deeply associated with Japan's creation legends and dedicated to the Shinto god Okuninushi-no-kami, the god of fortune, considered the creator of Japan. It was designated a National Treasure of Japan in 1952. The main sanctuary is built in the Taisha style, Japan's oldest style of shrine architecture. It has one of the largest shrine gates in Japan (around 75 feet high) and a 50-foot-long sacred rice straw festoon that weighs five tons. According to the Japanese mythology, Okuninushi-no-kami obtained Izumo in compensation for giving his territory to another god. There are no records of exactly when the shrine was built, but it is often considered the oldest shrine in Japan, already in existence in the early 700s, as revealed by the nation's oldest chronicles.

While in Matsue, we will also visit a local sake factory (with a tasting, of course!), tofu shop, and the Adachi Museum of Art, which has one of Japan's most beautiful landscape gardens. Overnights at Ohashikan Ryokan...B daily, L on Days 2 and 3, D on Days 2 and 4. Lunch on Day 4 and dinner on Day 3 are on your own.

About Ryokans: We stay several nights at ryokans, the traditional lodging of Japan that offer charming old-world Japanese hospitality. The hosts at our ryokans consider us as family and treat us accordingly. Please note that single guests will share accommodations with another guest in the group of the same gender.

## DAYS 5-6 KINOSAKI ONSEN / IZUSHI

We travel a beautiful coastal route along the Sea of Japan to under-the-radar Kinosaki Onsen, a hidden gem of a town nestled in a valley and



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	14 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Osaka, Japan
<b>Depart:</b>	Osaka, Japan
<b>Lodging:</b>	13 nights ryokans and hotels
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 8 lunches and 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Cultural Adventures, Walking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 Walking, including some steep stairs, 6-7 hours a day, Japanese-style dining (sitting on floor)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Matsue's fantastic 17th century castle and the samurai district surrounding it
- Relax in Kinosaki's ancient onsen baths, soaking up the history of this very Japanese tradition
- Sample the distinct regional cuisines of Matsue and Kyoto
- Explore Kyoto, with its Zen gardens and teahouses, witness the spectacular Takayama Festival
- Enjoy overnights in ryokans, the serene inns that reflect Japanese culture in miniature



# Itinerary

surrounded by mountains and sea. This hot springs town is filled with the tradition and culture of old Japan, and we'll enjoy the classic sukiya architecture and, of course, relaxing soaks in hot springs. Each onsen (hot spring) in this town is uniquely designed and heralded for its specific curative properties and legendary history. The next day we'll visit the Edo-era castle town of Izushi to sample its unique style of soba (buckwheat noodles), then head back for Kinosaki for an afternoon to explore and soak in the hot springs. Overnights at Yuraku Kinosaki Spa and Gardens (or similar)...BD daily, L on Day 6.



## DAYS 7-10 KYOTO

A three-hour train ride brings us to Kyoto, a lovely thousand-year-old city that is a center for Japan's superbly crafted folk arts: delicate silk, brocades, lacquer ware, earthen ware, porcelain, fans, dolls, ink drawings, paintings, and bronzes. Kyoto became the capital of Japan in 794 when Emperor Kammu inaugurated the area as the capital of peace and tranquility. It continued to be the capital throughout the Shogunate era until a Meiji emperor decided to move to Edo in 1868. To this day, Kyoto continues to be the cultural and artistic capital of Japan, preserving over 2,000 imposing shrines and temples, royal palaces, villas, elaborate gardens, and traditional folkcraft centers.

We spend our days in Kyoto among the cherry blossoms or fall foliage and temples, walking serene paths and exploring the smaller temples and gardens as well as visiting artisans. On Day 8, we enjoy a "Zen Day." We began with an early morning visit to Ryoan-ji—Japan's most famous rock garden. We continue on to Daitokuji, a Zen Complex that consists of nearly two dozen sub-temples and is one of the best places in Japan to see a wide variety of Zen gardens and to experience Zen culture and architecture. Founded in 1319, it remains a center for the Rinzaï sect. Here we meet our local guide who will lead us through the intricacies of the seemingly simple gardens. We also visit the studio of Sara Brayer, a well-known artist who will share her stories and artistic journey. In the afternoon, we'll head to Noguchi San's studio, a 4th generation gold leaf artist who lives and works in a Meiji Era, Machiya-style home.



On Day 9 We take a day trip to Himeji Castle, home to Japan's premier example of a feudal-era fortress. Spectacular Himeji Castle was built in the mid-14th century and gradually enlarged until it was completed in 1604. Never damaged by war, earthquake, or fire, it is a national treasure and a World Heritage Site. In the afternoon of Day 10, we experience the colorful Miyako Odori, featuring geisha dancing. Overnights at Noku Hotel (or similar)...B daily, L on Day 8. D on Days 7, 8, and 10. Dinner on your own on Day 9.

DAY 11  
TAKAYAMA

This morning we travel by bullet train to Takayama, a charming old mountain town affectionately referred to as “Little Kyoto.” In early times, the Hida artisans in this area possessed fine woodworking skills. They were sent to Nara and Kyoto to work on the great temples and palaces. In feudal times, Takayama became a castle town; its lords erected many temples and shrines. Today, the elegant old culture remains much in evidence in the splendidly preserved merchant houses, traditional inns, teahouses, and sake breweries. Dinner and overnight at Honjin Hiranoya Bekkan...BD

DAY 12  
TAKAYAMA

We enjoy a full day of exploring Takayama, including witnessing one of Japan’s most beautiful festivals, complete with a mikoshi (shrine) procession, elaborately decorated floats pulled through the streets, and karakuri doll performances. In spring, it’s the cherry blossom festival, and in autumn, the festival is about giving thanks while also marking the beginning of preparations for winter while appreciating the beautiful fall colors. We return to our ryokan for dinner and overnight...BD

DAY 13  
KYOTO

The train brings us back to Kyoto, and we transfer by taxi to our accommodation. The afternoon is free for shopping, temple hopping, or just wandering and taking in our last sights of the city. In the evening, we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner—with a geisha! Overnight at Noku Hotel...BD

DAY 14  
OSAKA / DEPART

The Haruka train from Kyoto station to Kansai International Airport is an efficient 1.25-hour trip directly to the airport. Depart on homeward-bound flights...B



“Exactly what I hoped for.  
Placed myself into the Japanese  
culture as much as possible.”

*Archibald B., Tucson, AZ*



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2025**

\$10,995 (8-12 members)

\$11,795 (5-7 members)

Single supplement: \$3,395

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. **Note: Single travelers will share accommodations at the ryokans.** Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in comfortable ryokans and hotels
- All meals included except 8 lunches and 2 dinners
- Ground transportation using Japan Rail System
- Site and entrance fees as part of the itinerary
- Land transportation as noted

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, airport transfers, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, fees for optional activities, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcohol, laundry, etc.).

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

# Trip Leader

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/japan/kyoto-kanazawa-tour](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/japan/kyoto-kanazawa-tour)



## LUCY WHITEHEAD

Having grown up in rural Tasmania, Lucy developed a deep love of nature and the outdoors through exploring the bush around her home on horseback and hiking with her family. She began her independent exploration at a young age with a week in the South West World Heritage area at the age of 11, and a school exchange in Japan at the age of 15. She is a world traveler who has lived in Europe, Japan, and Central America. After a year of working in Japan, she studied Japanese at the University of Tasmania, and later returned to Osaka on a scholarship to study Japanese literature along with anthropology, film, and ceramics. During her seven years in Japan, she taught English, hitch-hiked around Hokkaido, climbed Mt. Fuji, and walked the Kumano Kodo. She currently lives in Tasmania, one of her favorite places in the world, and works as a guide in both Tasmania and Japan. Lucy’s partner is a well-known sushi chef from the countryside of Wakayama. Together they relish camping and diving in Tasmania’s pristine wilderness, dining on internationally inspired dishes using home-grown produce, and surfing and snorkeling on the coast. Lucy is fluent in Japanese and is keen to share her love of Tasmania, Japan, and all the places in between, with travelers and friends.



# Accommodations

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## HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT

*Osaka, Japan*

*Day 1 (1 night)*

This hotel couldn't be more convenient for travelers transiting Osaka—it's located just a short walk from the passenger terminal and train station. Guest rooms are modern, spacious, and quiet (despite the proximity of jets landing and taking off) and there is a good breakfast buffet.



## OHASHIKAN RYOKAN

*Matsue, Japan*

*Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)*

As the oldest ryokan in Matsue, Ohashikan has a long legacy of authentic Japanese traditions. The ryokan is set within walking distance from Matsue Castle and has a beautiful view of Lake Shinji and the Ohashi River. Inside, tatami-floored guest rooms have futon beds and wonderful vistas of the castle or lake. Each evening, you can choose from the colorful assortment of yukatas (robes) provided to guests and enjoy listening to traditional koto music in the lobby. Please note: single accommodations are not available at the Ohashikan Ryokan.



## YURAKU KINOSAKI SPA AND GARDENS

*Toyooka, Japan*

*Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)*

Set amid tranquil Japanese gardens, this onsen ryokan is the perfect place to relax. Guest rooms are Japanese-style rooms with tatami mat floors and futon bedding. There are both indoor and open-air hot spring baths to enjoy a soak, as well as three private open-air baths built in a bamboo grove. If the hot springs aren't enough of a highlight, the cuisine surely is. All food is seasonal and locally sourced, and is absolutely delicious.





## NOKU KYOTO

*Kyoto, Japan*

*Days 7 to 10 (4 nights), Day 13 (1 night)*

Noku puts us in the heart of Kyoto, right next to the Imperial Palace. While we soak up 1,000-year-old Japanese history, we also appreciate the artistry of modern Kyoto. The hotel's guest rooms are sleek and modern, embellished with art pieces reflecting the cultural essence of Kyoto, and each one has a private bathroom. Craft galleries, machiya (townhouses) and scrumptious restaurants are located just out the door. Noku Café serves fresh-roasted coffee, homemade pastries, and traditional Japanese as well as Western breakfast options, a great place to start your day in Kyoto.



## HONJIN HIRANOYA BEKKAN

*Takayama, Japan*

*Days 11 to 12 (2 nights)*

Overlooking the tranquil Miya River stands Honjin Hiranoya Bekkan—the ideal place to unwind in enchanting Takayama—and whose superb attention to detail in cuisine has been honored with three stars from the Michelin Guide. The scenic property actually consists of two hotels, and we'll be staying in the lovely Bekkan guest rooms with tatami mat floors, views of the city or river, and a welcoming area to enjoy kaiseki-style meals and green tea (served in rooms by the lovely staff). For a bird's eye view of Takayama, relax in the ryokan's bathhouse on the seventh floor with full panoramas of the city and the beautiful red Nakabashi Bridge.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Temples, Treasures, and Teahouses* webpage and click on the “Lodging” tab.

# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements. If you are planning to travel independently before or after your trip, a good website for arranging public transportation within Japan is [www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com).

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport  
Osaka, Japan

**Date & Time:** Day 1, 6:00 pm

**Suggested Airport for Arrival:** Osaka Kansai International Airport (KIX)

**Suggested Arrival Time:** 4:00 pm or earlier

Upon arrival at Kansai, you will need to clear customs and immigration. There is a currency exchange on the arrival floor outside the customs area. The Nikko Kansai Airport Hotel is located within the airport's Aeroplaza, a short walk from both the passenger terminal and train station.

From Terminal 1 take the free shuttle bus (7-9 minute ride) to the aeroplaza and take the stairs to 2nd floor. From Terminal 2 walk through the center concourse that connects to JR Nankai train station, continue straight through and you will find the 2nd floor hotel entrance.

**\*Itami Airport** is the old Osaka International Airport, which now serves mainly domestic flights. There are airport buses from Itami to the Kansai airport, where the Nikko Kansai Airport Hotel is located. The fare is approximately 1700 yen and the trip takes about 70 minutes.

For airport bus arrival/departure times and details, please refer to the following website:

[www.okkbus.co.jp/en/timetable/kix/t\\_itm.html](http://www.okkbus.co.jp/en/timetable/kix/t_itm.html)

## DEPARTURE

Noku Hotel  
Kyoto, Japan

**Date:** Day 14

**Suggested Airport for Departure:** Kansai International Airport, Osaka (KIX) or Itami International Airport, Osaka (ITM)

**Suggested Flight Departure Time:** Anytime

On Day 14, you will take the train to Kansai International Airport. The journey is approximately 1.25 hours.

If you are departing from Osaka International Airport Itami (ITM), you will need to allow additional time to make your way there. A bus runs between the two airports and takes approximately 1.5 hours.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Japan. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

**All Nippon Airways**  
800-235-9262  
[www.fly-ana.com](http://www.fly-ana.com)

**United Airlines**  
800-864-8331  
[www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

**Japan Airlines**  
800-525-3663  
[jal.co.jp/jp/en/](http://jal.co.jp/jp/en/)

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

# Trip Details

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## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 2, Easy to Moderate, according to our trip grading system. This adventure trip features lovely walks in cities and villages. Although not physically demanding, the trip will yield greater rewards if you are in good physical condition and able to stay on your feet for 6-7 hours per day. In Kyoto, there is much to see, and a fair amount of walking is necessary to take it all in—and you will find there are many steps to climb! Japan is a land of staircases and hills and you will enjoy the trip more if you are dressed comfortably and are in good physical condition. Please remember we will be sleeping on futons and eating at floor level, so it is important that you are able to sit down on and get up off the floor without much difficulty.

We make the most of our time in Japan. After rising and eating breakfast, we leave our ryokan for a walking tour. Daily mini-lectures by our Trip Leader help provide insights into the past and future, the history, politics, geography, and the food of Japan. On some days, we visit temples and shrines, and other days, we follow the pathways of the shoguns or visit sites of breathtaking natural beauty. We ride the subways and buses, but we do most of our sightseeing on foot.

We will have a mix of free time and group time, providing the opportunity for independent exploration. Our breakfasts and some dinners are eaten together and we have the time to share our experiences and new discoveries over these meals.

The Japanese people dress well, and we'll find we are struck by the ongoing Westernization of this society and curious about the lifestyles of the modern Japanese. Our delight in the traditional aspects of Japanese life is gratified by the sights of kimono-clad women boarding the subway, the smell of incense wafting from a neighborhood temple, and the sense of aesthetics and design prevalent in daily life.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Japan is a blend of the traditional and modern, and our trip encompasses this unique mixture. We will stay at traditional ryokans as well as Japanese-style hotels. The quiet world of the ryokan is a venerable cultural institution—a way to experience a simple, timeless way of life. After being warmly welcomed, we trade our street shoes for slippers.

Once inside, we remove our slippers as we step onto the finely woven tatami mats covering our sleeping room floors. Our rooms are spacious and pleasant with low tables and comfortable futon mattresses with quilts and blankets. Ryokans have double rooms (singles are sometimes possible). Some of our rooms will have attached toilets; at other times, we share the “down the hall” facilities. Although a few ryokans have baths in the rooms, most have an ofuro (a Japanese-style bath). **Note: Single travelers will share accommodations at the ryokans.**

Normally, a fresh cotton yukata (robe) is provided for each guest. These light kimonos can be worn anywhere in and around the ryokan and we often wear them to meals (make sure to wear the left side over the right). For many of our breakfasts and dinners, beautifully presented meals are served as we sit on the floor at low tables on our tatami mats.

## JAPANESE BATHING

In Japan, bathing is a time honored tradition, a relaxing daily event. While staying in our ryokans, we will bathe as the Japanese do—using the ofuro system. In separate men and women's sides, the custom is to wash and rinse before entering the ofuro, a large tub of hot water where we can sit back with legs extended, submerged to the neck (this trip is not for the very modest!). Early Shinto was a religion of cleanliness and purification. Ritualistic bathing began during this time and has been perfected over the centuries. Either as a divine imperative or a luxury, bathing in Japan has always been regarded as more than a hygienic chore. The ofuro is the perfect way to finish a hectic day of travel. After a relaxing bath, we gather for the evening meal.

## JAPANESE CUISINE

A highlight of any visit to Japan is its superb cuisine defined by fresh ingredients and artful presentation. We will have ample opportunity to sample both familiar and new dishes. We will sample many types of Japanese food, and usually the first “bite” is with our eyes, the presentation being a tantalizing array of fresh fish, beef, vegetables, tofu, miso soup and, of course, rice, all served on individual plates and bowls of exquisite sizes, patterns, and proportions. We eat with chopsticks and are usually seated at low tables on the floor. At some ryokans, you may choose between a Japanese breakfast of fish, rice, miso soup, tofu, vegetables,

pickled condiments and tea, or a western breakfast consisting of eggs, toast, salad, and coffee. Many places, however, offer only Japanese food.

During our stays in major cities, you will have some dinners and most lunches on your own, allowing you ample opportunity to sample the endless variety of Japanese food. When we are traveling, we may try an obento (box lunch), and we sample the snack foods of Japan and/or get a bowl of udon, ramen or soba (noodles) at one of the local spots. We often eat lunch at the noodle shops, the sushi bars and the small neighborhood lunch spots, avoiding the infamous high-priced meals of Japan. Napkins are not used except at western-style restaurants; bring your own handkerchief.

Keep in mind that Japanese food is very different from what we are used to, and with the limited availability of American foods, your food intake will be a big part of the Japanese adventure. Please note that vegetarian options are available, but limited. Strict vegetarian diets, vegan diets, or gluten reduced diets will be difficult to accommodate due to the pervasiveness of the fish-based stock dashi and the use of soy sauce and miso in Japanese cuisine. Gluten free cuisine will not be available.

## WEATHER

Japan's climate and temperature range is similar to the East Coast of the US, with four distinct seasons. In March and April, the weather is turning spring-like and we hope to enjoy the cherry blossoms. Viewing the blossoms is somewhat of a national pastime in Japan. However, as the spring is a transitional season, we can expect some rain. Temperatures should range from the 50s to the 70sF. In the mountains, the weather is unpredictable and we may encounter rain or snow. Viewing the fall foliage is also a Japanese national pastime. In October, the weather begins

to cool down from the heat of summer, making it pleasant for outdoor walks, and this is an ideal time to view the fall foliage. Daytime temperatures are generally in the low 70s and cooler in the mountains, and rain is always a possibility.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Asia Manager or email us at [asia@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:asia@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kyoto	46/30	48/32	53/33	66/44	73/51	80/60	87/69	89/71	82/64	71/51	60/41	51/32
Takayama	37/22	40/21	48/27	62/37	72/47	78/58	84/65	87/66	78/59	67/47	55/35	43/27
Tokyo	50/32	50/34	55/39	66/48	73/57	77/64	84/72	88/75	81/68	70/57	63/46	54/37
Rainfall - Inches												
Kyoto	2.2	2.6	4.3	5.9	5.7	9.2	8.0	5.8	7.9	5.0	3.2	2.1
Takayama	3.7	3.6	4	4.1	4.4	5.7	6.8	5.9	7.3	4.6	3.5	3.3
Tokyo	1.7	2.3	3.7	4.7	5.2	7.1	5.0	5.8	7.1	6.2	3.3	1.7

# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



T-SHIRT FRONT



T-SHIRT BACK



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

# Travel Notes

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## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.