



Customized Private Tour

11 Nights / 12 Days

19 Meals – Peak Cherry Blossom Season

Bullet Train Experience

Japan

840/CFCW



Hosts:
CFCW's Dean Thorpe

**& Network Travel's
Rick MacSwain**

**The most fascinating
country in the world**

NETWORK
Travel

11 Nights / 12 Days
March 23rd - April 3rd, 2025

\$8339/person

Double occupancy | CAD

Single Occupancy \$10,739

International flights not included

Highlights

- Beautiful hand-selected hotel properties (see hotel names within the itinerary below)
- Experience Tokyo Metropolis: The capital of Japan mixes the ultra-modern and the traditional, from neon-lit skyscrapers to historic temples. Explore one of the most vibrant cities on earth and enjoy a cruise along the Tokyo River.
- Discover Kyoto: Kyoto, once the capital of Japan, is famous for its numerous classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines, and traditional wooden houses.
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial: Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and learn about the city's tragic past and how it rose again.
- Osaka's high points: The finest things about Osaka are its incredible casual cuisine and friendly residents. Takoyaki and okonomiyaki are among the most well-known street foods in Japan, and it is undoubtedly the country's street food capital.
- Bullet train in regular class Tokyo-Kyoto on day 5 and Hiroshima-Tokyo on day 11
- 19 Meals: 11 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners
- Tours including English-speaking local guides and private transfers:
- Japanese Tea ceremony
- Sushi cooking class
- Half-day city tour of Tokyo on day 2
- Full-day excursion to Hakone including the cable car and a cruise on Lake Ashi on day 3
- Half-day excursion of Kyoto (Day 5 and day 6)
- Full-day excursion to the Nara Park and Osaka on day 8
- Half-day excursion to Himeji Castle on day 9
- Full-day Tour of Hiroshima and to Miyajima Island on day 9 (roundtrip ferry included)
- **Entrance fees** to the visited sites

PERSONALIZED ITINERARY

DAY 1: TOKYO (D)

Welcome to Japan!

Upon arrival at Narita Airport, our **English-speaking assistant** will meet and greet you at the airport and assist you with the transfer to the hotel by **private coach**.

The rest of the day is free. You can rest after your flight.

Tokyo is a fascinating and diverse city with so much to discover. The city consists of many different neighborhoods - each with its own character.

We recommend picking and choosing neighborhoods, so you don't get carried away by the size of the city and feel intimidated. We recommend a first exploration on foot in the vibrant neighborhood of Shinjuku. It is a major commercial and administrative center and encompasses the buzzing clubs and karaoke rooms of neon-lit East Shinjuku and upscale bars and restaurants in the Skyscraper District.

You will enjoy a **welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant**.

Overnight in Tokyo

Meal(s): Dinner

Accommodation: **Shinagawa Prince Hotel 4*** in a Main Tower Twin (21 sqm) for 3 nights



DAY 2: TOKYO (B/L/D)

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (09:00-20:00)** and start your discovery tour of Tokyo by **private coach**.

Start with the Imperial Palace East Gardens, a part of the inner palace area open to the public. They are the former site of Edo Castle's innermost circles of defense, the honmaru ("main circle") and ninomaru ("secondary circle"). None of the main buildings remain today, but the moats, walls, entrance gates and several guardhouses still exist.

The tour will move on to **Asakusa**, where we'll find the **Sensoji Temple**, a very popular and colorful Buddhist temple. It is one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. The legend says that in the year 628, two brothers fished a statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, out of the Sumida River, and even though they put the statue back into the river, it always returned to them. Consequently, Sensoji was built nearby for the goddess of Kannon. No visit to Tokyo would be complete without checking out the shops!

For lunch, you will join a sushi cooking class. Make your own sushi and enjoy them for lunch !

Overnight in Tokyo Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: TOKYO – HAKONE - TOKYO (B/L)



After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (08:30-17:00)** and start your discovery tour of Tokyo by **private coach**.

(it will take around 2h from Tokyo to Hakone)

Explore the beautiful Fuji Hakone Izu. This national park is home to incredible scenery including the famous Mount Fuji. Sit back and soak in the natural scenery of Lake Ashi on the Cruise Ship. From here we'll get wonderful views and photos of Mount Fuji.

Our next mode of transport is the cable car known as the **Hakone Ropeway**. This gives us the chance to glide through the skies looking down on the Japanese countryside. We'll get off in Owakudani – an active volcanic zone of sulfurous fumes, hot springs, and rivers.

Head back to Tokyo and the rest of the evening is free. Overnight in Tokyo.

Overnight in Tokyo

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 4: TOKYO – DAY TRIP TO CHIBA (B/L)

Optional Tour or Free Day

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (09:00-16:00)** and start your discovery tour of Tokyo by **private coach**.

Rice Field Farm – Private Tour

Oyama Senmaida are terraced rice fields, located in the Chiba countryside but accessible from Tokyo. The Oyama Senmaida Preservation Society, the NPO which manages these fields, embarked on a process to re-invent the Oyama Senmaida brand.

You will **visit the rice field** with your guide. You will also be able to join an **indigo-dyeing experience**. Head back to Tokyo and the rest of the afternoon is free.

Overnight in Tokyo

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 5: TOKYO - KYOTO (B/D)

In the morning, **send your luggage to Kyoto** and keep an overnight bag for 1 night.

Meet your **English-speaking assistant and transfer by private coach to Tokyo station**. Take some time at the station to buy a ekiben – a bento lunch box to eat on the train. Take the bullet train to Kyoto station (around 2h).

Meet your English-speaking guide (12:30 - 20:00) and start the afternoon tour by private coach.

You will start by joining a **Japanese Tea Ceremony**. Watch the master prepare tea and enjoy a cup.



Kiyomizu Temple, one of the most celebrated temples of Japan. It was founded in 780 on the site of the Otowa Waterfall in the wooded hills east of Kyoto and derives its name from the fall's pure waters. The temple was originally associated with the Hosso sect, one of the oldest schools within Japanese Buddhism, but formed its own Kita Hosso sect in 1965. In 1994, the temple was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Sannenzaka Ninenzaka: Sannen-zaka and Ninen-zaka, a pair of gently sloping lanes that go from Kiyomizu-dera Temple toward Nene-no-Michi Lane, are two of Kyoto's most beautiful streets. Sannen-zakat and Ninen-zakat are a pair of pedestrian-only lanes that provide some of the most ambient strolling in the entire city. They are lined with beautifully restored traditional shophouses and delightfully free of the overhead power lines that blight the rest of Kyoto.

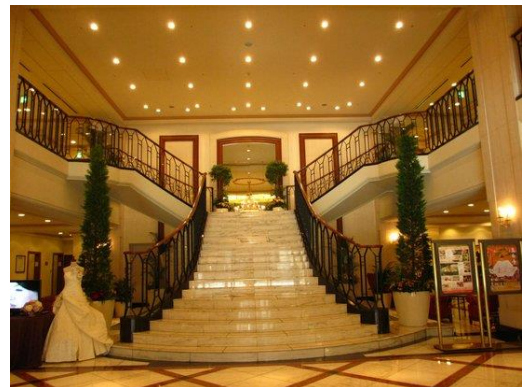
Gion. Gion is the perfect place to explore the Kyoto of another age. Known as the city's entertainment district, particularly for the refined performers known as geisha (or more properly geiko) who have enthralled patrons for centuries, Gion is full of handsome, understated townhouses and teahouses, restaurants serving traditional Kyoto cuisine, and venerable temples and shrines.

In the evening, you will experience a **delicious Japanese Kaiseki dinner**.

Overnight in Kyoto

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner

*Accommodation: **Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto 4*** in a Superior Twin Room for 3 nights*



DAY 6: KYOTO (B/L/D)

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (09:00-20:00)** and start your discovery tour of Kyoto by **private coach**.

Start with **Arashiyama**. A walk through the Bamboo Grove in Arashiyama. The walking paths cut through bamboo groves that have been used for centuries to make traditional crafts. We'll continue across the **Togetsukyo Bridge**, an iconic landmark. Great photos can be had of the forested mountains in the background and the nearby riverside park full of cherry trees.

Continue to **Tenryuji**, ranked first among the city's five great Zen temples, and is now registered as a world heritage site. **Tenryuji** is the head temple of its own school within the Rinzai Zen sect of Japanese Buddhism.

You will enjoy a lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure

Overnight in Kyoto

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



DAY 7: KYOTO (B)

Full day at leisure.

Suggestions: Head to the Philosopher Path and visit the Ginkakuji temple (Silver Pavilion) and the Nanzenji Temple. Visit Nijo Castle built in 1603 or take a day trip to Uji, the green tea city!

Overnight in Kyoto

Meal(s): Breakfast

DAY 8: KYOTO – NARA – OSAKA (B/L/D)

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (08:30-20:00)** and head to Nara by **private coach**.

Today we will visit to **Todaiji** and **Nara park** to meet the cute deer. Todaiji is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. The temple was constructed in 752 as the head temple of all provincial Buddhist temples of Japan and grew so powerful that the capital was moved from Nara to Nagaoka in 784 in order to lower the temple's influence on government affairs.

Walk across Nara park on the way to visit **Kasuga Taisha Shrine**, Nara's most celebrated shrine. It was established at the same time as the capital and is dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city. Kasuga Taisha was also the tutelary shrine of the Fujiwara, Japan's most powerful family clan during most of the Nara and Heian Periods. Like the Ise Shrines, Kasuga Taisha had been periodically rebuilt every 20 years for many centuries. In the case of Kasuga Taisha, however, the custom was discontinued at the end of the Edo Period.

You will have lunch at a local restaurant.

Then transfer to Osaka.

Visit **Osaka Castle**: Toyotomi Hideyoshi intended the castle to become the center of a new, unified Japan under Toyotomi rule. It was the largest castle at the time. The castle tower is now entirely modern on the inside and even features an elevator for easier accessibility. It houses an informative museum about the castle's history and Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

Discover **Dotonbori** A dining mecca that has long been dubbed Osaka's entertainment district. It's known for its bright neon lights, energetic shopkeepers, and food vendors stocked with some local Osakan delicacies like takoyaki (squid balls) and fugu (poisonous puffer fish).

You will have **dinner at a local restaurant**.

Overnight in Osaka

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

*Accommodation: **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka 4*** in a standard twin for 1 night*

DAY 9: OSAKA – HIMEJI – HIROSHIMA (B/L)

Send your luggage to be delivered to Tokyo. Please keep a small bag for 2 nights.

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (08:30-17:30)** and transfer by **private coach** to Himeji.

(it will take around 1h30 to arrive in Himeji)

Himeji Castle: one of the top three most stunning original castles in Japan is Himeji's main draw and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While Himeji Castle is the main attraction of a day trip to Himeji, the city also offers a number of other attractions, including Koko-en Garden, Shoshazan Engy-ji Temple, and a few art museums.

After lunch at the local restaurant, head to Hiroshima.

(it will take around 3h30 to arrive in Hiroshima)

The rest of the evening is free.

Overnight in Hiroshima

Meal(s): Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: **Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel 4*** in a *Deluxe Room (2 beds)* for 2 nights



DAY 10: HIROSHIMA (B/D)

After breakfast, meet your **English-speaking guide (09:00-20:00)** and start your discovery tour of Hiroshima by **private coach**.

Start with the **Peace Memorial Park & Museum**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Atomic Bomb Dome has become a symbol of peace, visited by pilgrims from around the world, and is a testament to the resilience of the city's people.



Then, we'll take a **ferry to Miyajima island**.

You will have some free time to do some shopping and have lunch on your own.



Visit the **Itsukushima shrine**, the source of both the island's fame and its name. Formally named Itsukushima, the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", literally "shrine island" in Japanese, thanks to its star attraction. The shrine is known worldwide for its iconic "floating" torii gate.

Take the ferry back to Hiroshima.

You will have some free shopping time in Hiroshima before enjoying **dinner at a local restaurant**.

Overnight in Hiroshima Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11: HIROSHIMA - TOKYO (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Hiroshima station together with your **English-speaking assistant by a private coach** to take the **Bullet train to Tokyo**. You will have some time to buy a bento lunch at the station.

Upon arrival, **meet your English-speaking assistant and transfer by private coach to the hotel**.

The rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Tokyo

Meal(s): Breakfast

Accommodation: **Shinagawa Prince Hotel 4*** in a *Main Tower Twin (21 sqm)* for 1 night

DAY 12: TOKYO (B)

Sadly, it's the end of the tour and time to say goodbye to Japan. After breakfast, transfer with an English-speaking assistant by private coach from your hotel to Tokyo International Airport for your departure flight.



Meal(s): Breakfast
End of tour!

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **All ground transportation in Japan** – Bullet Train or Coach - No in-country flights with large crowds.
- **Personally escorted** from Edmonton by CFCW's Dean Thorpe and Network Travel's Rick MacSwain
- **Accommodation** for 11 nights in beautiful hotels (listed above)
- **Meet and greet** at the airport by an English-speaking assistant
- **Transfers:**
 - Group arrival and departure transfers with English-speaking assistant
 - Group transfer with English-speaking assistant hotel in Tokyo – train station in Tokyo on day 4
 - Group transfer Kyoto - Osaka with a stop at the Nara Park on day 7
 - Group transfer Osaka - Hiroshima with a stop in Himeji on day 8
 - Group transfer with English-speaking assistant hotel in Hiroshima – train station in Hiroshima and train station in Tokyo – hotel in Tokyo on day 10
- Luggage transfer hotel in Tokyo – hotel in Kyoto on day 4 and luggage transfer hotel in Osaka – hotel in Tokyo on day 8
- Bullet train in regular class Tokyo-Kyoto on day 5 and Hiroshima-Tokyo on day 11
- **Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners
- **Tours including English-speaking local guides and private transfers:**
 - Half day city tour of Tokyo on day 2
 - Full day excursion to Hakone including the cable car and a cruise on the Lake Ashi day 3
 - Full day excursion to Oyama Senmaidai terraced rice fields and indigo dying experience day 4
 - Half day tour day 5 & 6 of Kyoto
 - Full day excursion to the Nara Park on day 8
 - Half day excursion to Himeji Castle on day 9
 - Full day Tour of Hiroshima and to Miyajima Island on day 9 (roundtrip ferry included)
 - Japanese Tea ceremony
 - Sushi cooking class
 - **Entrance fees** to the visited sites

Please Note: Hotels may be substituted for equal quality or higher.

THE PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International flight from Canada (Approximately \$1100 per person including tax)
- Meals not mentioned and drinks during meals.
- Porterage
- Early check-in and late check-out
- Gratuities
- Insurance and personal expenses
- All other services not mentioned in the inclusions.

Payment Schedule (per person based on double occupancy)

1st Deposit: \$500 due at time of booking Non-Refundable - 2nd Deposit: \$3000 due October 15th, 2024

Final Balance: January 8th, 2025

Contact Michelle Alvaro – Group Experience Specialist

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