

A black and white photograph of a jazz band performing in a dimly lit club. The band consists of a guitarist, a bassist, a saxophonist, and a drummer. The audience is visible in the foreground, seated at tables with drinks. The atmosphere is intimate and focused on the music.

# Jazz in Japan

**October 14-24, 2026**

Join KJazz Radio host and legendary on-air personality José Rizo this October for an unforgettable jazz adventure in Japan. Explore one of the world's most vibrant and deeply rooted jazz cultures, with exclusive experiences, insider access, and unforgettable performances that bring Japan's dynamic jazz scene to life.

Jazz performances are integrated throughout the program and curated by author Michael Pronko, ensuring access to Japan's most celebrated jazz venues and musicians.

Our journey combines Japan's jazz, culture, cuisine, and its legendary drinking traditions - sake, whisky, and shochu. Anchored by Tokyo and Kyoto with time in Kurashiki, a historic canal town, our gateway to central Japan.

Travel by Shinkansen bullet train, with a pace that allows time to explore, listen, and truly absorb Japan's remarkable devotion to jazz.

## **Tokyo / 4 nights**

### **The Heartbeat of Japanese Jazz**

By day, we explore Tokyo's iconic highlights, the ancient Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, its serene gardens, and world-class museums.

We dive into Japan's culinary traditions, from ramen and yakitori to tempura, izakaya dining, and exceptional sushi.

Evenings focus on Jazz, with performances at legendary clubs including venues like Body & Soul and Some Time, as well as intimate kissa, small jazz cafes that reveal the depth of Japan's devotion to the music.

We'll also visit the scene in Yokohama, which emerged as one of Japan's earliest jazz centers in the years following World War II.

## Kurashiki / 3 nights

Surprising Kurashiki and  
the legacy of Hiroshima

Kurashiki is a beautifully preserved town with roots in the Edo period. We walk the canal district to get our bearings, exploring its white-walled storehouses and merchant past. The next morning, we travel to Hiroshima for a day exploring the Peace Memorial Park and the city's remarkable rebirth from World War II.

Our final day is yours to enjoy - browse galleries and cafés, explore artist workshops, the Ohara Museum of Art or venture to nearby Naoshima Art Island. En route to Kyoto, we visit the Himeji Castle, a feudal masterpiece.



## Kyoto / 3 nights

Serene Zen mornings and  
electric Osaka jazz nights

Kyoto reveals both its iconic face and quieter corners - from the shimmering Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji) to Sanzen-in temple tucked into rural hills north of the city.

We'll walk the historic Gion district, and along Ninenzaka's preserved streets, scenes lifted straight from classic Kyoto imagery.

Evenings continue our musical journey, curated through Michael Pronko's deep connections to Japan's jazz world, including an excursion to Osaka, where the city's energetic nightlife and influential jazz scene have shaped Japan's musical identity for generations.

Our final night celebrates music, food, and drink for a fitting farewell to Japan.



## Trip At a Glance

**4 Nights in Tokyo:** Japan's Breathtaking

Capital and Legendary Jazz Scene.

**3 Nights in Kurashiki:** Historic Canals,

Gateway to Hiroshima & Naoshima Art Island.

**3 Nights in Kyoto:** Japan's Cultural Heart

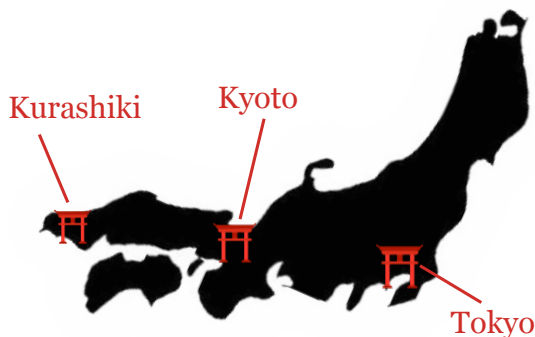
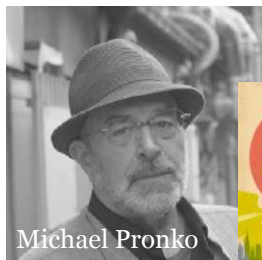
With an Evening of Jazz in Osaka.

## What's Included

- Ten nights, 4-star hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfast + 7 lunches + 8 dinners
- Jazz program curated by Michael Pronko, author of "Jazz in Japan"
- Japanese whisky, sake, and spirits tastings
- Traditional tea ceremony experience
- All ground transportation, including Shinkansen bullet trains
- English-speaking Japanese tour guide

## Your Jazz Team

Travel with fellow jazz enthusiasts who share your passion for learning and culture. You'll be joined by legendary KJazz host José Rizo and acclaimed author Michael Pronko, whose more than 20 years in Japan's jazz scene provide insider insight and exclusive access throughout the tour.



## Trip Facts

11 Days / 10 Nights (not including air travel)

\$8,350 Per person, double occupancy

\$1,975 Single supplement (waived if shared)



# Know before you go

## Reservations and Deposits

A \$1,000 per-person deposit is required to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days before a trip departure are not refundable.

The final payment is also non-refundable, so we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

## Not Included

International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service, gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in the brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

## Physical Requirements

It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip.

Click [here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

## Events and Hosted Journeys

If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not a cause for a refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find a replacement host with similar interests, talents, and expertise. A host's inability to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

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## Travel Insurance

Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

