



Springtime in Japan

A fully escorted tour of Japan from Cairns

Departs Cairns Saturday 23 Mar 2024

Returns to Cairns Tuesday 02 April 2024

“Join me on the 2024 Springtime in Japan tour for an experience that truly delivers the magic of Japan. The route is carefully selected to maximise the cherry blossom viewing opportunities whilst in Japan with highlights including the best sights of bustling modern cities to peaceful, centuries old temples and traditional Japanese gardens and castles. Exclusive close cultural encounters and carefully selected cuisine will satisfy the most discerning of travellers.”

Peter Morrison

Owner/Manager Cairns Central Travel

DAY BY DAY

1. **CAIRNS – TOKYO** Meet your tour director at Cairns International Airport to board your Jetstar flight bound for Tokyo's Narita airport. Upon arrival transfer by chartered coach to your inner city hotel. (Flight departs Cairns at 12.45pm and arrives Narita 7.00pm)



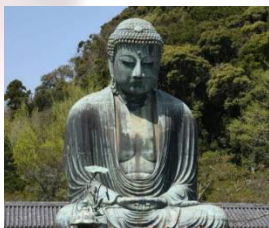
Tokyo night view

2. **TOKYO** See Tokyo at its dynamic best with an action packed day of sightseeing taking in the Imperial Palace, Asakusa Temple and Nakamise shopping arcade as well as the impressive 634m high Tokyo Sky Tree. Following a traditional teppanyaki lunch, enjoy a cruise along the Sumida River for optimum cherry blossom viewing (weather permitting). (B L D)



Tokyo Sky Tree

3. **TOKYO - KAMAKURA - HAKONE** Journey west by coach through the Japanese countryside to the historical city of Kamakura where you can immerse yourself in the peace and tranquillity of one of Japan's most culturally significant cities. Visits to the Hachimangu Shrine, Hasedera Temple and the largest outdoor statue of Buddha in Japan are included. In the afternoon continue by motorcoach to the Mt Fuji National Park and enjoy an authentic hot spring experience at the luxurious Prince Hotel.(B L D)



Kamakura Giant Buddha

4. **HAKONE – TAKAYAMA** This morning be amazed as you travel up to speeds of 280 kilometres per hour en-route to the alpine city of Takayama where old traditions are untouched by the passage of time. A walking tour of the city is included upon arrival including the festival floats pavilion and the Kamisanomachi shopping district where you can try the locally made sake. (B L D)



Lake Hakone- Mt Fuji National Park

5. TAKAYAMA - SHIRAKAWA – TAKAYAMA Continue through Japan's beautiful mountain scenery to one of the country's most remote regions, Shirakawa. Protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the unique Gassho-Zukuri (meaning joined hands) style thatched houses can only be found in this area. This afternoon, journey through the Japanese Alps via one of Japan's longest road tunnels, to the secluded town of Gokayama to try your hand at traditional Japanese rice paper making. (B L)



Shirakawa- go village

6. TAKAYAMA - MAGOME – TSUMAGO – NAGOYA

Depart by coach and continue through Japan's beautiful mountain scenery towards the village of Magome where your 4 kilometre trek to the village of Tsumago begins. A walk along the Nakasendo way will transport you back to the Edo period, some 300 years ago. This scenic trail is especially popular among overseas visitors who seek an authentic experience of traditional life. In the afternoon continue by coach towards the coastal city of Nagoya. (B L D)



Nakasendo trail

7. NAGOYA – KYOTO

Full day sightseeing in Nagoya including visits to Nagoya Castle and the Toyota Commemorative Museum showcasing as many as 4000 exhibition pieces - dynamic displays of original equipment, actual demonstrations by operators, instructive videos and more. Also visit the famous Noritake Garden, home to one of Japan's leading ceramic and porcelain companies. This afternoon travel by bullet train to Kyoto. (B L)



Nagoya Castle

8. KYOTO

Enjoy full day sightseeing of Kyoto, visiting many of the city's temples, shrines, palaces and pagodas. A highlight of the day is a visit to the extraordinary Nijo Castle, built in 1603 as the official residence of the Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. You will also visit Kinkakuji, the Temple of the Gold Pavilion and the Heian Shrine and Garden. During the day there will also be a chance to participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. (B L D)

9. KYOTO

Another day to explore Japan's most loved city. Today's cultural enrichment activities include a Zen meditation experience at Kodaiji Temple as well as a visit to the Nishijin textile centre. No visit to Kyoto is complete without a visit to the Kiyomizu Temple (literally "Pure Water Temple") - the most celebrated temple in 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. (B L)



Bamboo grove Kyoto

10. KYOTO . Rooms are made available till midday. Day is at leisure. For those more adventurous an optional day tour to Hiroshima can be arranged upon request. Transfer by chartered coach this evening to Osaka's Kansai International Airport (flight departs 8.30pm and arrives Cairns 5.00am 4 April)
(B)

INCLUSIONS

- * 9 nights hotel accommodation in superior 4-star hotels
- * Return economy class airfares including 20kgs checked luggage and 7kgs carry-on
- * breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 5 dinners.
- * 2 bullet train trips and 1 regional train trip.
- * Transportation in luxury privately chartered air-conditioned coaches.
- * Small group touring (maximum group size 26 guests)
- * All applicable entrance fees.
- * Luggage transportation.
- * Tour leader from Cairns.
- * Local English-speaking tour guides in Japan.
- * Return transfers (on first and last day of tour only)
- * Special cultural experiences including , Zen meditation, tea ceremony , rice paper making and more.
- * All gratuities

Accommodation List:

Tokyo – **Tokyo Prince Hotel** (or similar)

Hakone (Mt Fuji national park)- **Ashinoko Prince Hotel (lake view rooms)**

Takayama – **Takayama Mercure Hotel** (or similar)

Nagoya – **JR Gateway Tower Hotel (or similar)**

Kyoto – **Higashiyama by Tokyu (or similar)**

Pricing:

Twin share : \$6689.00

Single supplement \$1680.00

Important information:

*A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person is required at time of reservation. Final balance due 60 days prior to departure.

*Payment by credit card permitted with applicable fees. (1.4pc for Visa/Master and 3pc for Amex)

*Jetstar does not include in-flight meal service and pre-assignment of seat numbers. Additional fees apply.

*Please advise of any special dietary requirements at time of reservation

*Australian passport holders do not require a visa to travel to Japan.
Other passport holders should arrange visas well in advance of departure, if required.

*Travel insurance is strongly recommend in the event of cancellation and or sickness/accident whilst in Japan.

*Cancellation schedule:

60 days or more prior to departure: loss of deposit

59 to 45 days prior to departure : 10% of the total tour fare plus loss of deposit and airfare component

44 to 8 days prior to departure : 30% of the total tour fare plus loss of deposit and airfare component

7 to 2 days prior to departure : 80% of the total tour fare plus loss of deposit and airfare component

1 day prior to departure: 100% of the total tour fare and airfare component

*Please refer to www.cctravel.com.au for Cairns Central Travel's booking and advisory terms & conds.

Cairns Central Travel

Shop 139 Cairns Central Shopping Centre
CAIRNS QLD 4870

T: 07 4041 2833 E: peter@cctravel.com.au F: 07 4041 0493

www.cctravel.com.au IATA: 023 5195 2 ABN: 92128132761

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