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| **10/11/2019 (Sun)** | **Arrival, welcome to Kyoto** | | **Day 1** |
| Welcome to Japan! The memories you make on this journey will last you a lifetime.  You will be transferred straight to your hotel upon arrival. Take a few hours to rest; you’ll want to enjoy the evening’s special dinner performance to the fullest.  Sights:  Arrival at Kansai Airport (separate arrivals).  Complete entry procedures at the airport, then meet your private transfer driver and head for Kyoto (a drive of about 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on traffic).  Transfer to the hotel. *Sightseeing opportunities will depend on arrival time.* Enjoy a wonderful welcome dinner to the tune of a traditional *shakuhachi* flute. | | | |
| Hotel: The Thousand | | Meals: | |

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| **11/11/2019 (Mon)** | **Classic Kyoto, gallery dinner** | | **Day 2** |
| Dive straight into the fundamentals of Japanese aesthetics, Zen, architecture, and horticulture. Visit some of Kyoto’s most renowned sights, such as the distinguished stone garden at the spectacular Golden Pavilion and the mighty Shogun’s Castle. Take the opportunity to walk along some of Kyoto’s most picturesque streets, and perhaps even catch a glimpse of a geisha making her way to work through the beautiful district of Gion.  Sights:  Sightseeing in Kyoto, visit: —Nijo Castle, the Shogun’s Castle  Lunch at a local restaurant.  After a relaxing tea ceremony, continue sightseeing in Kyoto. Visit: —Daitokuji Temple —Kinkakuji Temple, the glittering Golden Pavilion  In the evening, enjoy a unique performance of traditional music and dance from different prefectures of Japan at a private dinner at a world-renowned museum.  After dinner, transfer to the hotel (end of bus service). | | | |
| Hotel: The Thousand | |  | |

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| **12/11/2019 (Tue)** | **A private glimpse into Kyoto’s temples** | | **Day 3** |
| For hundreds of years, the old imperial city of Kyoto has been an island of tradition in the swirling whirlpool of progress. Kyoto boasts seventeen World Heritage Sites, the most of any city in the world. Each site is a masterpiece, the culmination of the arts and traditions of the era in which it was constructed. Come face to face with the history, cultural aesthetics, religion, and tales that make up the Japanese story, right at the source. Look closely, and you can see echoes of the past rippling through the everyday life of the locals.  Sights:  In the morning, learn the true meaning of Zen Buddhism through a unique abbot-led tour of one of the oldest Zen temples in Kyoto, followed by a Zen meditation session.  After your meditation, temple visit, and talk with the monk, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.  After lunch, meet with the grandson of one of Japan’s most famous garden designers, himself a famous designer. Let this ideal guide teach you the secrets of Japanese horticulture during a private tour of some of the gardens he and his grandfather created.  In the evening, transfer to the hotel. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. | | | |
| Hotel: The Thousand | |  | |

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| **13/11/2019 (Wed)** | **Eastern Kyoto, gallery visits** | | **Day 4** |
| Experience the charm and beauty of Kyoto’s eastern side. Serene and dotted with temples, the Eastern Mountain (Higashiyama) district includes some of Kyoto’s most photogenic slopes and bridges. Lose yourself as you meander along winding streets lined with small, specialized shops and cafés, all set against the backdrop of magnificent green mountains.  Sights:  Take a morning to immerse yourself in Kyoto’s vibrant traditional crafts, from pottery, textiles, and innovative paper design to paper lanterns and countless other arts.  Lunch at a local restaurant.  Continue your exploration of the historic beauty of Buddhism with an exclusive abbot-led tour of a section of one of Kyoto’s most famous temples that is otherwise closed to the public.  After the temple visit, take your time strolling along one of the most picturesque walking streets in all of Kyoto.  In the evening, relax with a cocktail at a local art gallery. Enjoy a curator-led tour of the gallery before you have dinner at a local restaurant.  Transfer to the hotel. | | | |
| Hotel: The Thousand | |  | |

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| **14–15/11/2019 (Thu)** | **Ryokan experience, Hakone day excursion** | | **Day 5** |
| Spend a luxurious two days traveling to your ryokan, or traditional Japanese hotel, and exploring magnificent Hakone. Known as the scenic backyard of Tokyo, Hakone is a stunning nature reserve and hot springs area dotted with fantastic museums. It also boasts one of the most breathtaking views of sacred Mt. Fuji that you’ll find anywhere in Japan. Visit the main sights in the area, including a famous open-air museum known for using nature as a backdrop for its sculptures. Conclude the day with a spectacular visit to the Kimono Museum and the Atami Museum of Art.  Sights:  Transfer to Kyoto Station via private coach.  Take a bullet train from Kyoto Station to Odawara Station.  Meet your coach driver at Odawara Station and transfer to the Hakone area.  Prepare to experience art and the natural world like you never have before. —Hakone Chokokunomori Open-Air Museum Built in 1969, this Hakone museum was the first in Japan to celebrate art within nature. The open-air museum appeals to all lovers of art and the outdoors by combining nature and craft in impressive exhibitions. Across five exhibitions, the museum presents a huge collection of contemporary modern sculptures from Japan and overseas. The museum’s Picasso pavilion contains about 300 examples of the master’s work. Experience the iconic “symphonic sculpture” tour that lets you walk up and appreciate the view of the museum from the observation deck. The museum is also renowned for being impressive in every season, surrounded as it is by a variety of Japanese flora that cast the art in a different light throughout the year. The one-of-a-kind Open-Air Museum is sure to leave you awed and inspired.  Lunch at a local restaurant.  Continue with a mind-blowing visit to the Kimono Museum and Atami Museum of Art.  Your ryokan lies nestled among stunning nature in the Hamamatsu area.  In the evening, dress in your *yukata* (light kimono) for a traditional *kaiseki* dinner at the ryokan.  Enjoy a performance of Japanese *taiko* drums while you savor your dinner. | | | |
| Hotel: Katsuragi Hotel Kitanomaru | |  | |

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| **16/11/2019 (Fri)** | **The emerging neighborhoods of Tokyo** | | **Day 6** |
| Get ready to experience Tokyo, the true heart of modern Japan. Spend the day discovering the main sights of this sprawling metropolis, from its historic neighborhoods and ancient temples to contemporary pop culture and electronic wonders. Learn about the city’s storied history at various museums and special areas. Make sure to also explore the streets at night, when a forest of neon signs lights up the sky above as you explore thousands of lively restaurants and bars in Tokyo’s colorful entertainment districts.  Sights:  In the morning, transfer to Tokyo (a drive of about 3.5 hours). Enjoy stunning mountain scenery on the way.  Arrival in Tokyo, lunch at a local restaurant.  After lunch, visit: —Daikanyama Daikanyama is the Brooklyn of Japan. Hidden from the hustle and bustle of the capital, the area is an oasis of tree-lined streets where you can relax and recover. Discover a uniquely Japanese blend of modernity and comfort in the rows of hip cafés, beautiful boutiques, high-end fashion shops. Daikanyama is also the place to be if you want to embark on an unexpected culinary adventure.  —Shimokitazawa Crammed between the entertainment districts of Shibuya and Shinjuku, Shimokitazawa is a warren of little streets that has been described as bohemian, hippy, artsy—even hipster. Once upon a time, this area was a farming village. The village morphed first into a residential area, then today’s thriving music and arts community. Take a morning to nose through vintage shops, cozy bookstores, and trendy cafés. In the evening, explore the plentiful craft bars, live houses, and theaters at the southern end of Shimokitazawa. Barely accessible by car, this unique neighborhood is home to the coolest thrift shops and second-hand vintage stores in all of Tokyo. For those who want some truly unique shopping.   In the evening, transfer to your accommodation (end of bus service).  Dinner at a local restaurant. | | | |
| Hotel: Conrad Tokyo | |  | |

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| **17/11/2019 (Sat)** | **Artful Tokyo** | | **Day 7** |
| This day is for art lovers. See some of the leading modern and contemporary museums and art locations scattered about Tokyo, renowned throughout Japan and beyond. Get ready for close encounters with traditional art, modern design, and contemporary art in one of the beating hearts of the art world.  Start your day by joining an art specialist guide’s tour of some of Tokyo’s famous art museums and galleries, including: —Museums and galleries in the Roppongi area —A curator-led visit to the Mori Museum, one of the most important museums in Tokyo, including a special reception at the museum’s members-only club.  Lunch at a local restaurant.  —21 21 Design Sight  Over the last decade, the Roppongi area has morphed into a sprawling art scene. Explore the area to discover small and large artistic spaces, for example, 21 21 Design Sight. Shaped to resemble long, irregular glassy triangles, 21 21 Design Sight was designed by architect Tadao Ando and fashion designer Issey Miyake. Set in grass amid Tokyo’s urban jungle, this museum was built to redirect people’s eyes to common spaces. The structure incorporates lots of sunlight and gallery spaces that treat visitors to retrospectives of objects and events from everyday life. To celebrate the smaller things in life, visit this unique museum.  —The National Art Center Within the tangle of high-rises known as Roppongi hills lie three landmark museums that form the core of Roppongi’s artistic endeavor. These brilliant buildings, reaching for the sky at over fifty floors each, form Tokyo’s Art Triangle. They are the result of a creative project by multiple young architects who set out to create a communal space for work, life, play, hobbies, and shopping.  The second of the museums is the National Art Center, one of the largest exhibition spaces in Japan. Unique in concept, its rising glass curtain walls were made to resemble a forest. Fifty different species of trees are incorporated into this glassy museum. It is an “empty museum” that features impermanent, revolving exhibitions which come and go throughout the year. This whimsical space is a must-visit for any art lover.   *Sightseeing will depend on the exhibitions available on this day.*  In the evening, transfer to your accommodation (end of bus service).  Dinner at a local restaurant (subject to confirmation). | | | |
| Hotel: Conrad Tokyo | |  | |

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| **18/11/2019 (Sun)** | **Architecture tour, garden performance** | | **Day 8** |
| Today, an architect guide will peel back the glitter and glamor of Tokyo to reveal the architecture that forms the backbone of the city. Observe the constructed environment, hear about the history and happenings that shaped it, and appreciate how cultural phenomena and historical events have imbued Tokyo’s buildings and urban sites with meaning. This day will give you the tools and knowledge to truly understand what made Tokyo.  In the morning, visit: —Meiji Shrine & Park for weddings A winding walking path cuts through dense forest until it reaches a hundred-meter-high *torii* gate made of thousand-year-old cypress trees. This is the grand Meiji Shrine, located amid Tokyo’s hustle and bustle. Dedicated to the souls of Emperor Mutsuhito and Empress Shoken, this is Japan’s most famous Shinto shrine. The grand shrine, built entirely out of copper and cypress, is an oasis amid the clamor of the city. The shrine has a tumultuous history: it was destroyed during World War II but rebuilt according to its original design in 1958. The shrine is bursting with tourists and people at prayer not just during festivals or on New Year’s Day, but all year round. It is a visible illustration of the respect and admiration Japanese people hold for the imperial Chrysanthemum Throne that the shrine represents. Surrounding Meiji Shrine is a grassy green space filled with a hundred and fifty species of iris flowers, a garden said to have been designed by the Emperor himself for his Empress. Three hundred and sixty-five species of trees safeguard this sacred shrine, and in winter, it is visited by flocks of mandarin ducks. The flowers and animals are particularly abundant in June.  —Harajuku Tokyo’s zenith of youth fashion and culture, Harajuku is an outdoor catwalk for fashionistas. The area’s combination of contemporary architecture, boutiques, cool cafés, extreme teenage culture, and fast food is unique within the city. Situated between Tokyo’s busiest districts, Shinjuku and Shibuya, Harajuku draws thousands every day. Explore a whole new world of “kawaii” (cute) fashion and energetic young people in cosplay costumes. Head to 400-meter long Takeshita Street to discover the heart of this hip-hop pop-popping area.  —Omotesando Omotesando gives you space to breathe away from Tokyo’s otherwise high-powered energetic streets. Located close to both Harajuku and Shibuya, Omotesando is a tree-lined street that leads up to Meiji Shrine. It is also known as the older, wealthier version of Harajuku. It targets older fashionistas with boutiques and shops embedded in a dizzying mixture of architectural and natural elements. Omotesando also has a distinctive brand of youthful fashion. A pleasant, photogenic, and wide street where you can while away an afternoon window-shopping, strolling, eating and drinking, and treating yourself to some retail therapy.    Lunch at a local restaurant.  The afternoon will be dedicated to a tour led by an architect. The tour will focus on architecture and the city.   Visit about twenty destinations, including: —Nihonbashi, the Bridge of Japan, where the city of Tokyo originated —Shiodome, where construction for the 2020 Olympic Games is currently underway  In the evening, transfer to your accommodation. | | | |
| Hotel: Conrad Tokyo | |  | |

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| **18/11/2019 (Mon)** | **Departure** | | **Day 9** |
| A coach will transfer you to Narita Airport for your flight home.  This is the final day of your first adventure in the Land of the Rising Sun—a personal, in-depth encounter that is sure to leave you with enduring memories and a spark of inspiration.  Transfer by coach to Narita Airport   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 25 passengers/bus | 30 passengers/bus | 35 passengers/bus | | Per person, double room | 8,655 USD | 8,555 USD | 8,455 USD | | Single supplement | 2,900 USD | 2,900 USD | 2,900 USD |   Based on:  4 nights at The Thousand Kyoto:  <https://www.keihanhotels-resorts.co.jp/the-thousand-kyoto/rooms/>  Price per room per night: 56,000 yen, approximately 500 US dollars.  2 nights at the ryokan Katsuragi Hotel Kitanomaru, Hamamatsu:  <https://www.yamaharesort.co.jp/katsuragi-kitanomaru/en/>  Price per room per night: 66,000 yen, approximately 600 US dollars.  3 nights at the Conrad Tokyo hotel:  <https://conradhotels3.hilton.com/en/hotels/japan/conrad-tokyo-TYOCICI/index.html?WT.mc_id=zELWAKN0APAC1CI2DMH3LocalSearch4DGGenericx6TYOCICI> Price per room per night: 117,000 yen, approximately 1,050 US dollars.  **Included:**  Hotels:  3 nights at The Thousand Kyoto.  2 nights at the Katsuragi Hotel Kitanomaru ryokan in Hamamatsu  3 nights at the Conrad Tokyo  Meals & Drinks:  Full board throughout the trip, including farewell dinner on the last evening  Entrance fees and sightseeing:  According to the above itinerary.  Guides + Services:  2 private guides for 8–9 hours a day.  2 private assistant guides for 8–9 hours a day.  Tips:  Drivers, local guides, hotels porters, and restaurants tips are included.  Frees:  6 frees in economy class in the tour.  **Not included:**  Flights:  Flights for passengers.  Private expenses:  Any private expenses, for example, single room supplements.  Insurance:  Health, luggage, and travel insurance.  Inspection:  Inspection for 3 pax in economy-class flights.  Extra services:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Location | Extra service | Price in US dollars | | Kyoto | 10/11/19—Koto Shakuhachi performance at welcome dinner | 457 USD | |  | 11/11/19—Music performance at the museum | 107 USD | |  | 12/11/19—Zen meditation and private temple tour | 20 USD | |  | 12/11/19—Private tour of Kyoto garden | 11 USD | |  | 12/11/19—Noh and Butoh workshop | 54 USD | |  | 13/11/19—Craftsmen visit | 9 USD | |  | 13/11/19—Private temple tour | 13 USD | |  | 13/11/19—Art gallery tour and cocktails | 45 USD | |  | 13/11/19—Geisha dinner with one Geisha | 117 USD | | Hamamatsu | 14/11/19—Taiko performance | 20 USD | | Tokyo | 16/11/19—Tokyo art tour, 2 guides | 20 USD | |  | 17/11/19—Tokyo architecture tour, 2 guides | 20 USD |   **Payment conditions**  —Immediate payment of 2,500 USD required upon registration.  —The balance due will be split into three payments, due on:   1. August 1 2. September 1 3. October 1   **Cancelation fee policy**   * From registration until 15/07/19 no cancelation fees. * Any cancelation from 16/07/19 until 01/09/19, 1700 USD per person. * Any cancelation from 02/09/19 until 15/10/19 will entail a 50% cancelation fee. * Any cancelation from 16/10/19 until the date of departure will entail a 100% cancelation fee.   **How to register**  Please e-mail the registration form to Ornit Zur Arie: [ornitz@geotours.com](mailto:ornitz@geotours.com)  Tel: 972-3-5639001 | | | |
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