



# Japan for Solo Travelers: Tokyo, Mt. Fuji & Kyoto

9 days | 12 days with Kobe extension

Japan dazzles with its natural beauty, rich history, and distinctive cuisine. For many solo travelers, navigating the country's language and social etiquette alone can feel overwhelming. But on this journey, you'll spend a week exploring with other solo travelers, and an expert Tour Director who will guide you from bustling Tokyo to majestic Mount Fuji to utterly charming Kyoto. Along the way, you'll get to know Japanese culture—and your fellow travelers—through cooking classes and other immersive experiences. If you've got the time, continue on to Kobe, your bayside base for scenic drives, sake tastings, and excursions to historic Himeji Castle and Hiroshima.



## Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 sake tasting
- 1 food tasting
- 1 cooking class
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride

## Included highlights

- Sushi tasting at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market
- Japanese cooking class & dinner
- Mount Fuji's Narusawa Ice Cave & traditional villages
- Ride on Japan's famous Shinkansen bullet train
- Kyoto's bamboo forest & Golden Pavilion

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and gravel paths, with few hills. You may need to climb stairs when visiting temples.

## Group size

15–28

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Tokyo today.

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## Tokyo → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Tokyo

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Japan! Settle in to your hotel. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Tokyo & cooking class

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Join a local guide and embark on an immersive tour of Tokyo, Japan's bustling capital. Ancient shrines and temples, peaceful parks, and modern skyscrapers make up the tapestry of the city, which is home to nearly 14 million people.

- Walk through Tsukiji fish market, whose historic lanes and alleys are chock-full of sushi shops, ramen stalls, tea vendors, and more.
- Learn about Japan's seafood heritage, and visit a vendor's stall to sample fresh sushi (*vegetarian option available*).
- View Tokyo's iconic Shibuya Crossing—the world's largest, with as many as 3,000 pedestrians passing through the busy intersection at a time—as you drive through the center of the city.
- Set off on a short walk, from Yoyogi Park—one of Tokyo's largest, with lawns, ponds, and forested areas—to Meiji Jingu shrine, the final resting place of Japan's Emperor Meiji, under whose reign Japan became a major power in the modern world.
- Stroll through the lively Harajuku neighborhood, which is known for its colorful street art, youthful fashion trends, and cosplay culture.

Tonight, join an experienced chef at a local restaurant for a cooking lesson and dinner.

- Tie on your apron and watch as the chef demonstrates how to make traditional Japanese dishes.

- Try your hand at crafting your own authentic meal.
- Sit down to enjoy the meal you've made.

### Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Tokyo

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out with your Tour Director to explore two prominent Tokyo neighborhoods: Ueno—a lively district teeming with museums and shops and home to a popular namesake park—and Asakusa, which is known for its Old Tokyo atmosphere.

- Learn about the history of pagodas and shrines in Ueno Park, a large public park in Tokyo's northeastern Ueno district that's known for its many museums and cherry trees.
- Walk to Ameya Yochoko (or Ameyoko for short), a busy market street, and enjoy free time to visit its shops and open-air stalls.
- Make your way by coach to the Asakusa district, and peruse Kappabashi Street, which is commonly referred to as Kitchen Town thanks to its more than 170 shops specializing in high-quality kitchenware, such as chopsticks and knives.
- Enter Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple—and, with its five-story pagoda and red-and-white facade, one of the most photographed, too.

Spend a free evening in the city or add an excursion.

+ Tokyo Dinner & Karaoke

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## Mount Fuji Region → 1 night

### Day 5: Sightseeing of Mount Fuji region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Depart for the north side of Mount Fuji to spend the day exploring with your Tour Director.

- Step back in time with a visit to Iyashi no Sato, an open-air museum and craft village on the western shores of Lake Saiko.
- Explore some of the village's 20-plus houses, many of which have been converted into shops, galleries, and museums that highlight Japanese handicrafts, culture, and traditions.
- Take part in an interactive craft workshop.

Next, continue to one of Japan's most breathtaking natural icons, the 12,388-foot-high Mount Fuji.

- Pass through the Aokigahara Forest, whose lush foliage has earned it the nickname "The Sea of Trees."
- Enjoy free time to snap photos of Mount Fuji's famous, snow-capped peak and to explore the Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station, a popular basecamp for hikers and climbers that's located about halfway up the mountain's northern slopes.
- Admire stunning panoramic views of nearby villages and the picturesque Fuji Five Lakes region.

Continue on to your hotel and enjoy an included dinner this evening.

*Please note: We recommend wearing warm layers, as temperatures at Mount Fuji will be much lower than in Tokyo or Kyoto. Depending upon the weather, the sightseeing of Mount Fuji's 5th Station may be moved to the morning of Day 6 or replaced with a different viewpoint.*

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## Kyoto → 3 nights

### Day 6: Narusawa Ice Cave & bullet train to Kyoto

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend this morning exploring otherworldly, underground scenery and learning about the natural wonders of the area.

- Follow your Tour Director on a short hiking tour of Narusawa Ice Cave, a frozen, subterranean lava tube located in the heart of the Aokigahara Forest at the base of Mount Fuji.
- Learn how the ninth-century eruption of Mount Nagao—a volcano whose eruptions helped shape Mount Fuji—formed the cave.
- Find out how the chilly cave once naturally refrigerated and preserved silkworm cocoons used for weaving.

*Please note: Visiting Narusawa Ice Cave requires travelers to walk over uneven terrain, up many stairs, and under low overhangs. Travelers who don't feel comfortable navigating these surfaces have the option to sit out the experience.*

This afternoon, board a high-speed bullet train to Kyoto.

**Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Kyoto**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local guide on a tour of Kyoto, the city that served as Japan's capital for more than 1,000 years and is still considered its spiritual capital.

- Start in western Kyoto's historic Arashiyama district, which is known for its temples, shrines, and stunning natural beauty.
- Step inside the UNESCO-listed Tenryū-ji temple, which was originally constructed in the 12th century and is considered one of Kyoto's most important sites.
- Wander through the famous and photogenic Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, whose towering, 160-foot-tall bamboo stalks flank a singular pathway.
- Take in views of the rolling, tree-covered hills that surround the Hozu River.
- Cross the wooden Togetsukyo Bridge, which was originally built more than 1,200 years ago and stretches nearly 170 feet across a river that's known as the Hozu to the west and the Katsura to the east.
- See the famous, 14th-century Kinkaku-ji temple, widely known as the Golden Pavilion, which sits at the edge of a tranquil reflecting pond and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Kyoto or add an excursion.

+ Nara: Traditions of Japan

**Day 8: Free day in Kyoto**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Spend a free day in Kyoto or add an excursion. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner in Kyoto. You'll enjoy a sake tasting, as well as a traditional hot pot meal, served family style and with beer or wine.

+ Fushimi Inari Walking Tour & Tea Ceremony

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**Flight Home**

**Day 9: Free morning & departure**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a final free morning in Kyoto before transferring to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay and explore the city of Kobe.

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**+ Kobe extension**

Nestled at the edge of Osaka Bay on Japan's Honshū island, Kobe is best known for its

mouthwatering, marbled beef. But with its scenic harbor, esteemed sake breweries, and fascinating geopolitical history, the cosmopolitan city is a can't-miss for more than just discerning carnivores. Join your fellow solo travelers on an exploration of Kobe that will give you a taste—literally and figuratively—of all it has to offer. And with Kobe as your base, ride a high-speed bullet train to Hiroshima and spend a day reflecting in the now-modern city once ravaged by an atomic bomb.

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**Kobe → 3 nights**

**Day 9: Transfer to Kobe & sightseeing tour**

*Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting*

Today, head to Kobe. Meet your local guide for a tour of the city, which boasts a picturesque harbor framed by mountains and is known around the world for its premium, marbled beef.

- Drive along the waterfront and view bright-red Kobe Port Tower, a sightseeing tower that was designed in the 1960s to resemble an hourglass-shaped Japanese drum.
- Hear about the Kobe foreign concession, one of five Japanese ports where Western traders lived following the forced economic opening of Japan in the late 1800s.
- Visit a sake museum—housed in an old sake brewery—where you'll learn about the tradition of sake making and taste three types of the fermented rice alcohol.
- Learn about Kobe's Nada district, which is Japan's top sake-producing region thanks to the availability of high-quality rice and water and favorable weather conditions.

Enjoy a free evening in Kobe or add an excursion.

+ Kobe Beef Dinner

**Day 10: Train to Hiroshima & sightseeing tour**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board a high-speed bullet train to Hiroshima and get to know the "City of Peace" on today's guided sightseeing tour.

- Visit Peace Memorial Park to see the Atomic Bomb Dome, which was built in 1915 as an exhibition space and, just 30 years later, was the only structure to withstand the U.S.'s infamous atomic bombing of the city during World War II.
- Enter the Peace Memorial Museum, which displays belongings left behind by bombing victims, as well as photos and other materials that convey the horror of the event.

- Take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island to view the 12th-century, UNESCO-listed Itsukushima Shrine, a shinto shrine known for its "floating" orange torii gate.

Return to Kobe by high-speed bullet train and spend a free evening in the city.

**Day 11: Free day in Kobe**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Kobe or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ A Day in Himeji

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**Flight Home**

**Day 12: Transfer to Osaka & departure**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to Osaka airport and board your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/JP6](https://goaheadtours.com/JP6) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 4: Tokyo Dinner & Karaoke

\$105/\$115\* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Head out for an evening in the city, starting with a delicious dinner featuring typical Japanese cuisine. Then, spend the evening the way many locals do—belting out beloved tunes at a karaoke club. Enjoy your own private space, where you can enjoy drinks and a true Japanese pastime with your fellow travelers.

## Day 7: Nara: Traditions of Japan

\$89/\$99\* (5.5 hours, departs in the afternoon, lunch included)

Join a local guide in Japan's former capital, Nara. Enjoy an included lunch, then set off on a walking tour to visit some of the city's UNESCO-listed monuments. Tour the Todaiji Temple, home to the world's largest bronze Buddha statue. Then, walk to Nara's Nakatanidou district for a chance to watch a master candy maker pound and pull mochi into its candy form. You'll also sample the rice-based sweet. Your walking tour continues with a visit to Kasuga-taisha. This Shinto shrine is famous for the thousands of bronze and stone lanterns that decorate the pathways on the grounds. Finally, stroll through the nearby Nara Park, home to hundreds of sacred wild deer. Later, make your way back to Kyoto. Please note: While the deer at Nara Park are friendly, they are still wild animals and should be treated with caution. If you have any allergies, please keep in mind that the deer live throughout the entire park.

## Day 8: Fushimi Inari Walking Tour & Tea Ceremony

\$95/\$105\* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover some of the Kyoto's sacred spots and traditional flavors on today's excursions. Enter Fushimi Inari, a Shinto shrine that's famous for its thousands of orange Torii gates and was a filming site for the 2005 movie "Memoirs of a Geisha." Make your way up the steps, follow the pathway of gates up the mountain to the Yotsutsuji intersection, and take in the panoramic views of Kyoto. Once back at the base of the shrine, you'll have free time to explore the area and to enjoy lunch. Afterwards, join a tea master, who will demonstrate the steps and customs of a traditional tea ceremony and explain the function of the various utensils involved. Then, discover the meaning of the symbolic gestures you'll make as you try matcha. This form of green tea is ground into a powder and is known for its bright hue. Sip tea and snack on wagashi, Japanese sweets often made from red beans, which nicely balance the bitterness of the matcha tea. Please note: Foot traffic through Fushimi Inari Shrine flows in one direction—visitors aren't permitted to turn back and must complete the walk once they've entered. Depending on the number of travelers, you might be split into two groups for the tea ceremony.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 9: Kobe Beef Dinner

\$119/\$129\* (2.5 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Kobe is known around the world for its exceptionally high-quality namesake beef, which can sometimes be tough to find outside of Japan. Head to a local restaurant, where you'll enjoy a multi-course dinner featuring perfectly marbled, melt-in-your-mouth Kobe beef—and earn the right to boast a bit when you get back home.

### Day 11: A Day in Himeji

\$139/\$149\* (6 hours, departs in the morning)

Enjoy a day in Himeji admiring beautiful feudal architecture and the surrounding area's charming landscapes and gardens. Begin with a ride along the Mount Shosha Ropeway, and enjoy views of the lush forest as you ride the aerial lift up the mountain. Upon reaching your stop, walk uphill to the historic Engyoji temple, a peaceful complex dating back more than 1,000 years and a main filming location for the hit 2003 movie "The Last Samurai." After exploring the complex with your Tour Director, continue on to Himeji, where you'll enjoy free time for lunch. Afterwards, step inside one of the country's finest castles, Himeji-jo castle, and get acquainted with this UNESCO-listed site on a self-guided tour of the castle and gardens. Himeji-jo is a wooden masterpiece comprising more than 80 buildings, and its white facade and elegant pinnacles make it one of the city's most striking sights. After marveling at its early 17th-century architecture, step outside to wander through the nearby Koko-en Garden. The tranquil space was created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Himeji municipality, and its nine different gardens are designed to be aesthetically pleasing through all four seasons. Later, return to Kobe via your private motor coach.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)