

Premium
CRUISE HOLIDAYS

Join us on our next adventure to the

Land of the Rising Sun
Japan, 30 Mar '17



TAUCK 



Essence of JAPAN - Escorted Group Tour by Victoria Brandon

15 days from AU\$16,490*pp twin share - departs 30 Mar '17
 Single Supplement: additional \$3,966

Business Class Airfare Upgrade from \$2,900pp

(Price based from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne – other Australian cities on request)

Inspirational, innovative and intriguing, Japan has always been a favourite Tauck destination, where gilded temples and glittering skyscrapers reign over streets steeped in history and tradition. Discover the revered customs and unique sense of beauty that infuse life here... On the main island of Honshu, from Tokyo to the hot springs resort town of Hakone and on through the “Japanese Alps” to Kanazawa and the cultural treasure trove of Kyoto, visit a private home, shoes off, for a tea ceremony and Origami... explore castles, temples, shrines, a samurai home, and world-class gardens... make sushi, taste sake, cruise Lake Ashi to see Mt. Fuji... enjoy a taiko performance, Shinto music, Kagura dancing, a sumo wrestling demonstration... and meet a geisha expert. Join us for a Japan trip to remember.

DISTINCTIVELY INCLUSIVE

- Multiple-night stays in premier hotels in Tokyo, Kyoto, Kanazawa & at a hot springs resort & spa in Hakone
- Tokyo’s Edo-Tokyo Museum, Shinto music, Kagura dancing, taiko drums & sumo wrestling
- In Kyoto, a private home visit with tea ceremony & Origami demonstration, explorations with a local Geisha expert, visits to Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple & Pure Water Temple (Kiyomizu Temple)
- A cruise on Lake Ashi beneath Mt. Fuji
- Ceramics, glass-blowing, or flower arranging workshops or a whisky distillery tour in Hakone
- A lesson on sake brewing & a tasting at a local brewery in Takayama
- A guided tour of Kanazawa’s Kenroku-en Garden, one of Japan’s most revered landscaped gardens
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure as noted
- 30 meals (13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners); gratuities to local guides, service charges, admission fees, taxes and portorage
- Return Economy class airfares inclusive of air taxes



15 day Essence of Japan itinerary

Day 1 – 30 March 2017 Depart Australia to Tokyo	Depart Australia to Tokyo. On arrival a transfer is included from Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airports to the five-star Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo, conveniently located in the Nihonbashi district in the heart of the city.
Day 2 – 31 March 2017 Tokyo	Day at leisure. Tauck's Japan trip begins at 6:30 PM. This evening join us for a welcome reception and dinner at your hotel. Meal: B D Lodging: Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo
Day 3 – 1 April 2017 Tokyo Today and Yesterday	A sightseeing tour gives you an overview of one of the world's most dynamic capital cities, touching on both history and modern life. Your discoveries continue at a sushi-making experience followed by lunch. This afternoon explore the Edo-Tokyo Museum, focused on Tokyo's development from its roots as a fishing village called Edo, and see an exhilarating taiko drumming performance; rhythm, melody, and movement combine to create an extraordinary musical experience. Meals: B, L Lodging: Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo
Day 4 – 2 April 2017 Hakone, a lake cruise & Mt. Fuji	This morning board a bullet train (shinkansen) for a short ride south to Odawara and continue on to the scenic hot springs resort town of Hakone known for its open-air sculpture park surrounded by mountains; the sculptures, many by famous artists including Rodin and Picasso, are thoughtfully juxtaposed against nature's everchanging landscape. Following your guided visit at the sculpture park, have lunch on the shore of Lake Ashi in advance of your boat cruise on the lake, an opportunity, weather permitting, for viewing Mt. Fuji. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort & Spa
Day 5 – 3 April 2017 Exploring Traditions in Hakone	Today you have a choice of activities that will provide a glimpse into Japanese traditions. One possibility is to visit Gora Park, designed in 1914 in the French style, and attend a ceramics workshop or try your hand at glassblowing. Another possibility is to stay at the hotel and learn ikebana – Japanese flower arranging – with a teacher who gives a class and demonstration. You also have an opportunity to tour the Fuji-Gotemba Distillery, the world's largest whisky distillery, sitting at the foot of Mt. Fuji. After lunch, spend a free afternoon enjoying Hakone according to your own inclinations. You might indulge in some pampering at your hotel's spa or, doing as the Japanese do, take a dip in the healing hot springs (onsen). Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort & Spa
Day 6 – 4 April 2017 The Japanese Alps & Matsumoto	AAs your Japan trip continues, travel north through the forested mountain landscapes of the "Japanese Alps," through winding valleys dotted with rice farms, lakes, rushing rivers, and small villages. In Kawaguchi, visit the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, where a display of exquisite kimonos is housed in a building made of coral and limestone. Continue inland to the hot springs town of Matsumoto, where you'll visit 400-hundred-year-old Matsumoto Castle, Japan's oldest castle and a national treasure, also known as the "Crow Castle" because of its black exterior. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Tobira Onsen Myojinkan
Day 7 – 5 April 2017 Old Takayama and a Sake brewery	Early this morning, head for Takayama, a mountain city long famed for its artisans and woodworkers. Do some sightseeing along the narrow lanes of its historic center followed by a lesson in sake making and a tasting at a local brewery. After lunch at a local restaurant known for its Hida beef, depart Takayama and continue on to Kanazawa. Arriving here marks your having crossed all the way from one side of Japan's main island of Honshu to the other. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa
Day 8 – 6 April 2017 Gardens, Art & a Samurai home	A full day's sightseeing in Kanazawa begins with a guided stroll through celebrated Kenroku-en Garden, considered among the country's top three landscaped gardens. You'll have lunch and free time for exploring the museum at your own pace. Then it's on to the historic Samurai District, where samurai homes are tucked among narrow lanes and canals behind earthen walls and private entrance gates. Go inside the restored Nomura Samurai Family Residence for a look at the lifestyle of the samurai during feudal times, when they were prosperous. The rest of your day and evening are free. Meals: B, L Lodging: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa
Day 9 – 7 April 2017 A train ride to beautiful Kyoto	Depart Kanazawa by train for Kyoto, arriving midday for a four-night stay at Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto. Have lunch and begin your exploration of the city considered one of Japan's most beautiful. On your introductory sightseeing tour, discover a city center of glass and steel skyscrapers ringed by hidden temples, shrines, and gardens that exude the tranquility and charm of Japan's ancient culture. You may choose to dine at our selected local restaurant either tonight or tomorrow. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto
Day 10 – 8 April 2017 A castle, a temple & a Kyoto geisha district	Sightseeing begins at Nijo Castle, surrounded by stone walls and a moat; tour this 17th-century shogun's residence and UNESCO World Heritage Site – and discover the secret of its "nightingale" floors. Next visit the famous golden-topped Kinkaku-ji Temple, set in an ancient garden on the edge of a lake – a position symbolizing its place "between heaven and Earth." Hear the story of how this 14th-century temple was burned to the ground by a young monk and then completely reconstructed. After lunch at a local restaurant, meet up with a geisha expert who leads an exploration of the back streets "of one of Kyoto's geisha districts, and shares insights on the "flower and willow" world of the geishas, past and present. Meals: B, L Lodging: Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto
Day 11 – 9 April 2017 A private home visit in Kyoto	Begin this day of your Japan trip with a prayer at the Kiyomizudera (Pure Water Temple) established in 778; the current buildings were rebuilt in the 17th century. Drink the water here in long-handled cups as you wish for longevity, success or love. Kyoto is known as the craft capital of Japan, and many traditional arts have been passed down through the generations. You'll have an opportunity to visit a private home here; take your shoes off, come in, and your gracious "hostess will demonstrate traditional rituals. Meals: B Lodging: Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto
Day 12 – 10 April 2017 Kyoto as you please	Continue exploring Kyoto as you pursue your own interests today. The city's classic cultural gems span the centuries, and your Tauck Director will have suggestions for places to visit. Join us for a special dinner tonight at a local restaurant. Meals: B, D Lodging: Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto
Day 13 – 11 April 2017 Traditions in Tokyo	Travel by rail from Kyoto back to Tokyo, arriving for lunch at the celebrated restaurant Nobu. Afterward visit Meiji Shrine and take in a live performance of traditional Shinto music and Kagura dancing. As your Japan trip draws to a close, tonight's farewell reception and dinner take place at a local restaurant, where you'll witness a larger-than-life demonstration by sumo wrestlers. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo
Day 14 – 12 April 2017 Journey home	Your Japan trip ends at Narita International Airport. Fly home anytime. An airport transfer is included from Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo to Narita International Airport. Please allow a minimum of 3 hours for flight check-in at the airport. Meals: B
Day 15 – 13 April 2017 Journey home	Arrive in Australia

*Airmiles subject to early bird availability and subject to increases

NOT INCLUDED

Passport and applicable Visa Fees, charges imposed by third parties, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed in the itinerary, excess baggage, travel insurance, travel to and from Australian airport. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended. Please ask us for more details.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person is required within 7 days to secure a place on tour. Airfare deposit and final payment requirements will be advised at time of booking.

PART PAYMENT

A further non refundable payment of \$2,500 is due 31 July 16.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of monies due for the tour must be paid by 15th January 2017. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card (no fees apply). Airfare final payment conditions will be advised at time of booking. Payments after this date may incur a late fee payment.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event you have to cancel your booking, cancellation fees will apply. Deposit will be forfeited on cancellation prior to balance payment. After due date for final payment, additional cancellation charges are subject to the conditions imposed by individually contracted tour operators, airlines and hotels and minimum numbers on the tour.

CHANGES IN PRICE AND ITINERARY

Prices in this brochure are based on costs, charges, tariffs, taxes, levies and exchange rates at the time of publication. In the event that such fluctuations affect the price to be paid for services, we reserve the right to adjust the price as necessary at any time. Tauck Tours reserve the right to deviate from this itinerary or change hotels should it be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

TRAVELLING ALONE

We do not wish to disadvantage individuals travelling without a companion. Should you prefer a guaranteed single room, a single supplement will apply. We will try to match you with another traveller of the same gender. Please understand that compatibility cannot be guaranteed and this offer is conditional on acceptance of this factor.

PORTERAGE

One suitcase on tour is included in the tour price and at arrival or departure from each hotel. Due to limited coach capacity, this single bag should have a weight not exceeding 30 kg and dimensions not exceeding 77.5 cm x 56 cm x 32 cm. Charges will be levied in the event these limits are exceeded and our promise to transport you as indicated may be invalidated. Note: Airlines may restrict check-in baggage to 20kgs per person – check with your travel agent for airline luggage allowance.

LOCAL CURRENCY, TRAVELLER CHEQUES

We recommend that you take with you a combination of holiday money, credit cards and local currency. We can provide further assistance if required.

PASSPORT, VISAS AND TAXES

You must have a valid passport with 6 months validity from date of return.

SMOKING is not permitted on board aircraft or coaches, and within the airport terminals.

SEAT CHANGES

A seat rotation system will apply on board our coach whilst touring.

DOCUMENTATION

Approximately 2 weeks prior to departure from Australia, documentation will be received by your travel agent including a tour itinerary, a full hotel list, baggage labels and ticket wallet.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

A minimum of 10 passengers is required to operate this tour as per brochure. Should this not be met, we reserves the right to alter or cancel arrangements.

For further information on any of the above conditions, please contact us on contacts below.

