



# **SAMURAI TOURS**

*Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan*

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**BEST OF TOKYO AND BEYOND**  
**2012-2013 INFORMATION & SCHEDULE**



[GO TO WEBSITE](#)

## SAMURAI TOURS

### CUSTOMIZE YOUR TOUR

Combine this tour with the Best of Kyoto and Beyond tour for a more complete Japanese experience.

Or, if you only want to spend a few days in Kyoto either before or after the tour, we can arrange this for you. Contact us for details.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

#### TOKYO

- Nakamise-dori
- Senso-ji
- Sumida River Cruise
- Ginza
- Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
- Tsukiji Fish Market
- Yanaka District
- Harajuku District
- Omotesando
- Meiji Shrine
- Akihabara District
- Rikiguen Garden

#### KAMAKURA

- Kotokuin (Great Buddha)
- Hase-dera Temple
- Hokoku-ji (Bamboo Temple)

#### HAKONE

## Best of Tokyo and Beyond

9 Days | 7 Nights

To the uninitiated, Tokyo may seem like a whirlwind of people and traffic. Yet, behind the ordered chaos lie remnants of a very different past.

### DESTINATIONS

#### Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone

You could easily spend a lifetime exploring Tokyo and never run out of places and things to discover. From “funky” old Ueno and nearby Yanaka with its fine park, museums, and old houses, to the ultra-modern Ginza with its endless department stores ... the sheer energy level of Tokyo will sweep you away. And by night, Tokyo really comes into its own. Mazes of blazing neon fill every available nook and cranny of the city’s streets and alleys. Above all, Tokyo is not just a destination, but an experience.

You will learn the ancient religious traditions of the Japanese, wander the stalls of the world’s largest fish market, visit the famous “Daibutsu” in Kamakura, explore Tokyo’s largest Shinto Shrine dedicated to the emperor who began the modernization of Japan and see the icon of Japan, Mt. Fuji (weather-permitting).

Every day, you’ll enjoy the friendliness, fun and flexibility of small group travel by experiencing sights, Japanese restaurants and family-run ryokans that are off-limits to larger groups. From start-to-finish, all group transportation and admissions, lodging, travel insurance, all breakfasts, five lunches and one dinner and more are included. All while our tour guide brings Japan alive with valuable insights.

### MAP OF TOUR DESTINATIONS



For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at [info@samuraitours.com](mailto:info@samuraitours.com)



# SAMURAI TOURS



From Top to Bottom:  
Statue at Toshogu Shrine in Nikko,  
Tour Group at Senso-ji Temple,  
Senso-ji Pagoda,  
Edo Period Wall in Tokyo

## BEST OF TOKYO AND BEYOND - TOUR ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Leave for Japan
- DAY 2** Arrive in Japan
- DAY 3** Tokyo - Meiji Shrine, Harajuku/Omotesando, Akihabara
- DAY 4** Tokyo - Ueno Park, Yanaka, Rikiguen Garden
- DAY 5** Tokyo - Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji Temple, Asakusa Shrine, Roppongi Hills Observation Deck, Ginza, Sumida River Cruise
- DAY 6** Hakone - Travel to Hakone, Tour Hakone by train, funicular, ropeway, boat and bus, Travel to Tokyo
- DAY 7** Tokyo – Tsukiji Fish Market (Wholesale Market), Free Day
- DAY 8** Kamakura – Travel to Kamakura, Hase-dera Temple, Kotokuin (Great Buddha), Hokokuji Temple (Bamboo Temple)
- DAY 9** Depart for home/arrive home

VISIT WEBSITE FOR CURRENT TOUR STATUS

## DATES & PRICES (Prices are per person and in US Dollars)

TOUR DATES	PRICES (LAND ONLY)	
Apr 7, 2012 – Apr 15, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jun 2, 2012 – Jun 10, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jun 23, 2012 – Jul 1, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jul 21, 2012 – Jul 29, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Aug 25, 2012 – Sep 2, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Sep 22, 2012 – Sep 30, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Oct 20, 2012 – Oct 28, 2012	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Apr 6, 2013 – Apr 14, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jun 1, 2013 – Jun 9, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jun 22, 2013 – Jun 30, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Jul 20, 2013 – Jul 28, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Aug 24, 2013 – Sep 1, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Sep 21, 2013 – Sep 29, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244
Oct 19, 2013 – Oct 27, 2013	\$1,994	Single Supplement \$244

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## WALKING LEVEL GUIDE

### LIGHT

0-2 miles in flat areas  
or 0-1 miles in hilly areas  
or with many stairs

### MEDIUM

2-4 miles in flat areas  
or 1-3 miles in hilly areas  
or with many stairs

### HEAVY

4-6 miles in flat areas  
or 3-5 miles in hilly areas  
or with many stairs



From Top to Bottom:  
Octopus at Tsukiji Fish Market,  
Daibatsu (Great Buddha)  
in Kamakura

## BEST OF TOKYO AND BEYOND - DETAILED TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1: To Tokyo

Depart home for Tokyo's Narita Airport. No meals are included. *(Travel: 12 hours; Walking: Light)*

### Day 2: Arrive Tokyo

You lose a day flying to Japan due to crossing the International Dateline, but you will gain the day back when you fly home. You will be met at Tokyo's Narita Airport by a meeting service, who escorts you to the ryokan where you will be staying. No meals are included. *(Travel: 1-1/2 hours; Walking: Light)*

### Day 3: Tokyo

We start the day with a visit to the Meiji Shrine, the largest Shinto Shrine in Tokyo. The shrine was completed and dedicated to the Emperor Meiji in 1920, eight years after the passing of the emperor. Emperor Meiji was born in 1852 and ascended to the throne in 1867 when Japan's feudal era came to an end and the emperor was restored to power. During the Meiji Period, Japan modernized and westernized herself to join the world's major powers by the time Emperor Meiji passed away in 1912. Next, we will visit the Harajuku District of Tokyo. Harajuku is the center of Japan's most extreme teenage cultures and fashion styles. The focal point of Harajuku is Takeshita Dori, which is lined by many trendy shops, fashion boutiques, used clothes stores and other shops geared towards the fashion and trend-conscious teens. Near Takeshita-dori, but worlds apart, is Omotesando, a broad, tree lined avenue sometimes referred to as Tokyo's Champs-Elysees. Here you can find famous brand name shops, cafes and restaurants. We will finish the day with a visit to Akihabara. In the past, Akihabara was famous for its numerous, large electronics shops. Today, Akihabara has gained recognition as the center of Japan's otaku (geek or nerd) culture, and many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are now dispersed among the electronic stores in the district. We will end our visit to Akihabara at a maid cafe where waitresses dress up and act like maids or anime characters. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 1 hour; Walking: Heavy)*

### Day 4: Tokyo

After breakfast, we will visit Ueno Park. Today, Ueno Park is Tokyo's largest public park with numerous temples, shrines and museums. But in 1868, it was the site of large, bloody battle between forces loyal to the Shogun and the Imperial army. Next we will visit the Yanaka District. Here you will find the old spirit of Tokyo is still alive and thriving. There are buildings dating back more than 150 years here that were not damaged during the huge Kanto earthquake in 1923 or during bombing in World War II. We will also visit a cemetery where the final Tokugawa Shogun is buried. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant are included. We will finish the day with a visit to Rikugien Garden. Rikugien is one of Tokyo's most beautiful, Japanese style landscape gardens built around 1700 by Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu, a high-ranking advisor in the Tokugawa Shogunate. Rikugien literally means "six poems garden" and reproduces in miniature 88 scenes from famous poems. Rikugien has a central pond, islands, forested areas, man made hills and several teahouses. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 1 hour; Walking: Heavy)*

### Day 5: Tokyo

After breakfast, we will tour the Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji Buddhist Temple and the Asakusa Shrine where you will learn about Buddhist and Shinto Japanese religious practices. Next, we will take the subway to Roppongi Hills, where we will visit the Tokyo City View. From the observation deck on the 53rd floor of the Roppongi Hills Building, you will get a bird's eye view of Tokyo while also getting oriented to Tokyo, and a glimpse as to just how large Tokyo really is. On a clear day you might even see Mt. Fuji. Afterwards, we travel by subway to the famous Ginza district, the most expensive real estate in the world where we will first stop for a lunch of Kushiage (fried meat and vegetables on bamboo skewers). After lunch, you will have some free time to wander through the numerous boutiques and department stores. Or visit the Nissan and BMW showrooms to see the latest automobile technology. Or explore the Sony Building where you will find many of Sony's products on display, some of which aren't on the market yet. After riding the subway to the Hinode

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From Top to Bottom:  
Ginza District at Night,  
Nio Guardian Statue  
at Toshogu Shrine,  
Tour group members in Nikko

Pier, we take a relaxing cruise on the Sumida River. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1-3/4 hours; Walking: Heavy)*

### Day 6: Hakone

Today we will tour Hakone. Hakone is famous for its natural beauty and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji (weather permitting). We will be taking many different forms of transportation (electric train, funicular, gondola and bus) around Hakone including the Hakone Sightseeing Boats on Lake Ashi. In good weather, passengers aboard the sightseeing cruise can get a fine view of Japan's most famous peak, Mount Fuji, and enjoy Hakone's rich scenery reflected on the lake's calm surface. Along the way we will be stopping at the Owakudani on the ropeway. The large windows of the gondola allow visitors to observe the panorama of Hakone's unspoiled natural setting. Owakudani offers magnificent views of Mount Fuji in what is still an active volcanic region. Here at Owakudani, you will have free time to explore the thermally-heated pools and mud pots. You can try one of the 'black eggs', which are eggs hard-boiled in the thermally-heated mineral waters. It is said if you eat one of these eggs, it will add seven years to your life. (It is probably said by the people who sell the eggs.) *(Travel: 6 hours; Walking: Light)*

### Day 7: Tokyo

We will start the day at the Tsukiji Fish Market. This fish market is the largest in the world, and it is estimated that 20-percent of all of the fish caught in the world pass through this market. The rest of the day is free to explore on your own. Go shopping for that perfect souvenir, visit the Meiji Shrine dedicated to the Japanese emperor of the 19th century, or wander through the trendy Shibuya or Harajuku districts where you will more than likely see interesting and far-out fashions. In the evening, you can visit the Kabuki-cho entertainment district to see how the Japanese businessmen let off steam. Breakfast at the ryokan is included. *(Travel: 30 Minutes; Walking: Medium)*

### Day 8: Kamakura

We board a subway and an express train to the ancient city of Kamakura, the former capital of Japan in the 13th century. We will start at Hase-dera. This temple, originally established in the 8th century houses a famous Kannon statue made from wood and gold leaf, and also has a commanding view of the nearby ocean. Next we will visit Kotokuin, the home of the famous Kamakura Great Buddha. This 40-foot tall bronze statue of Buddha, built in the 13th century is an icon of Japan. After a relaxing noodle lunch, we continue by taxi to Hokokuin Temple, also known as the Bamboo Temple. Here you will be able to relax and enjoy the serene atmosphere of the bamboo garden while savoring tea and sweets. A local, licensed English-speaking, Japanese guide will be joining us for the day. After arriving back in Tokyo, we will enjoy a Kaitenzushi dinner. (Kaitenzushi literally translates to Sushi-go-round.) The sushi moves by on a conveyor belt, and you grab what looks good. Breakfast at the ryokan, lunch and dinner at a local Japanese restaurant are included. *(Travel: 3 hours; Walking: Medium)*

### Day 9: Home

It's time to say "sayonara" (goodbye). You will be escorted to the train station where you will take the express train to Tokyo's Narita Airport on your own. Breakfast at the ryokan is included. *(Travel: 1-1/2 Hours; Walking: Light)*



### BEST OF TOKYO AND BEYOND - TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The full-time services of a Samurai Tours guide.
- Local, licensed, English-speaking, Japanese guides where indicated in the itinerary detail.
- Travel Select Travel Insurance Policy from Travelex, one of the world's largest travel insurance providers. (The insurance provided by Samurai Tours will cover the land portion only. Insurance to cover airfare is the tour member's responsibility.)
- The provided insurance coverage includes
  - Trip Cancellation (up to trip cost)
  - Trip Interruption (up to 150% of trip cost)
  - Trip Delay/Missed Connection (up to \$750)
  - Medical Expense (up to \$50,000)
  - Medical Evacuation/Repatriation (up to \$500,000)
  - Lost or Stolen Baggage (up to \$1,000)
  - Baggage Delay (up to \$250)
  - Coverage for financial default of tour operator
  - A waiver of any pre-existing medical conditions that could eventually cause you to interrupt your trip
- Travel Insurance Surcharge: Depending on your age at the time the travel insurance is purchased, you may be subject to the following surcharge for your travel insurance. Travel insurance surcharges will be due at the the same time as your tour deposits
  - Up to 69 - \$0
  - 70 to 79 - \$125
  - 80 and over - \$350
- Travel Insurance Opt-Out: If you would prefer to opt out of the travel insurance, please note this at the time of registration. You will receive a \$100 credit per person, which will be reflected on your invoice. In the event that you would need to cancel your tour, cancellation penalties may apply. See the Terms and Conditions webpage for the Cancellation Fees Schedule.
- Airport transfer from Tokyo's Narita Airport and airport transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport.
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport and sending service to the Tokyo Train Station. (The meeting service will meet you at the airport and escort you to the ryokan in Tokyo. The sending service will escort you to the Tokyo train station and make sure you board the correct train. The sending service will not accompany you to the airport. For those requiring meeting or sending services on other than the scheduled arrival/departure dates, there will be a \$100 fee for the meeting service from the airport into Tokyo or the sending service to the Tokyo Train Station.)
- Lodging for 7 nights in Japanese-style ryokans.
- Meals
  - Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning  
(Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
  - Five Japanese-style lunches
  - One Japanese-style dinner
- The appropriate amount of free time to allow you to explore and discover your own personal Japan.
- All transportation costs when traveling with the group. (Transportation costs during scheduled free times are the tour member's responsibility.)



# SAMURAI TOURS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### USA

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Member Better Business Bureau,  
American Society of Travel Agents,  
National Tour Association and  
Japan National Tourist Organization  
JNTO-approved Japan Travel Specialist

## BEST OF TOKYO AND BEYOND - TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Admission Fees to the following destinations and activities (itinerary specifics subject to change):

### TOKYO

Nakamise-dori  
Senso-ji  
Sumida River Cruise  
Ginza  
Roppongi Hills Observation Deck  
Tsukiji Fish Market  
Yanaka District  
Harajuku District  
Omotesando  
Meiji Shrine  
Ueno Park  
Rikiguen Garden  
Meiji Shrine

### KAMAKURA

Kotokuin (Great Buddha)  
Hase-dera Temple  
Hokuku-ji (Bamboo Temple)

### HAKONE

- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Each tour member receives a tour handbook. This handbook is full of tips and suggestions taken from our Japan travel experiences that will allow you to better plan and prepare for your trip, and therefore enjoy your trip even more. The tips and suggestions included cover everything from how to save while exchanging money, what to pack, some basic Japanese-language tips, general etiquette do's-and-don'ts, ryokan customs, etc.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Airfare is NOT included
- Alcoholic beverages are NOT included - except at the dinner the first evening and the sayonara dinner

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