



SAMURAI TOURS

Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan

ECONOMY TOURS

2012-2013 INFORMATION & SCHEDULE



SAMURAI TOURS



Mike Roberts, Owner, Samurai Tours

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL US

info@samuraitours.com

USA

Call us toll-free:
1-866-316- SAMURAI
1-866-316-7268

Samurai Tours
7900 East Union Ave, Suite 1100
Denver CO 80237

Fax number: 720-210-5423

JAPAN

Call us: 075-361-7303

Samurai Tours
307 Yodokizu
Fushimi
Kyoto 613-0911 Japan

Kyoto-ken Chijitoroku Ryokogyo 3-576/
Japanese Travel Agency License:
Kyoto Prefecture #3-576



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

About Our Economy Tours

If you're on a budget but don't want to sacrifice quality, then our economy tours are what you are looking for.

These are small, escorted group tours (maximum of 16 tour members) allowing us to stay in smaller neighborhood hotels and family-run ryokans, use public transportation and to visit destinations and eat in more intimate restaurants that large group tours can only dream of. All of the hotels and ryokans we use have en-suite, attached bathrooms with western-style toilets. Since all of your group transportation costs, admission fees, all breakfasts, half of your lunches and dinners and more are included, there are no hidden costs.

These packages feature:

- Small groups (16 members maximum) with a friendly atmosphere
- Smaller neighborhood hotels and family-run ryokans
- Public transportation (no tour buses)
- Well-rounded and creative itineraries
- Experienced guides and tour leaders
- Mixture of Japanese-style and Western-style food
- Well-balanced cultural activities
- Guaranteed prices with no hidden costs

If the fun, friendliness and flexibility of small escorted group travel appeals to you, join us!

Friendly Groups

“Traveling small” gives our groups a congenial atmosphere. Because of the way we organize our tours, and the way we travel, we tend to attract friendlier, more flexible and fun-loving people for our tours. If you are interested in learning about Japan, its culture, people and want to have fun at the same time, you will fit right in.

Experienced Tour Leaders and Guides

You will enjoy the full-time services of our experienced, bi-lingual tour leaders who will ensure your Japanese experience goes off without a hitch. And our licensed, English-speaking Japanese guides, well versed in Japanese culture, history, art and architecture, provided at the appropriate times during the tour will bring Japan alive with their insights.

Smaller Neighborhood Hotels and Family-run Ryokans

Whenever possible, we prefer to stay in smaller more intimate neighborhood hotels and family-run ryokans in the middle of the sights and culture rather than convenient to the transportation hubs. By staying in central locations, you are within walking distance of what you came to see. This saves you time and money, and gives you lots of independence. All of the hotels and ryokans have en-suite bathrooms. The bathrooms will include a bath/shower combination, sink and western-style toilet.

Public Transportation

We use only public transportation for these tours. We use the same trains, subways, buses, taxis and ferries that millions of Japanese use every day. By traveling this way, you will get much closer to the people and culture you traveled thousands of miles to discover. You won't view Japan through a tour bus window on a whirlwind bus tour. And no trip to Japan is complete without at least one ride on the fast and convenient Shinkansens (bullet trains).

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



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SAMURAI TOURS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

TOKYO

- Tsukiji Fish Market
- Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
- GINZA
- Sumida River Cruise
- Nakamise-dori
- Senso-ji
- Asakusa Shrine

KAMAKURA

- Hase-dera
- Kaibutsu (Great Buddha)
- Hokoku-ji Temple

HAKONE YUMOTO ONSEN

HAKONE

- Hakone Ropeway
- Owakudani
- Hakone Sightseeing Boat Cruise

TAKAYAMA

- Miyagawa Morning Market
- Jinyamae Morning Market
- Takayama Jinya

SHIRAKAWAGO

- Shirakawago Open Air Museum

KANAZAWA

- Kenrokuen Garden
- Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum
- Nagamachi Samurai District
- Nomura House

HIROSHIMA

- Hiroshima Peace Park
- Hiroshima Peace Museum

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

- Mt. Misen Ropeway
- Itsukushima Shrine
- Omotesando Shopping Street

KYOTO

- Kinkakuji
- Nijo Castle
- Nishikikoji
- Tea ceremony
- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Kiyomizu
- Higashiyama
- Gion

Best of Japan Economy Tour

14 Days | 12 Nights

More than any other country, the Japanese have managed to integrate ancient traditions and bleeding-edge technology harmoniously into their daily lives. With the perfect mix of new and old, this well-rounded tour has something for everyone.

DESTINATIONS

Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone Yumoto Onsen, Hakone (Mt. Fuji), Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Osaka, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Kyoto

In the best that Japan has to offer, you'll enjoy a colorful mix of large cities like Tokyo and Osaka, quaint and traditional Takayama and Shirakawa-go, the ambiance and solitude of Miyajima Island and the ancient shrines and temples of Kyoto, the testament to peace of Hiroshima, the natural beauty of Hakone, the thermally-heated mineral water baths at an onsen and more.

You'll participate in a tea ceremony, visit the world's largest fish market, stroll through farmer's markets, see where the geisha live and work, visit beautiful Miyajima Island, soak in the thermally-heated mineral waters at an onsen, admire sacred Mt. Fuji (weather permitting), the icon of Japan and much, much more.

MAP OF TOUR DESTINATIONS



For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



SAMURAI TOURS



Photos Top to Bottom:
Tower in Ginza at Night,
Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima,
Shinkansens (Bullet Trains)
at the Tokyo Train Station
Nishiki-koji Open Air Market, Kyoto

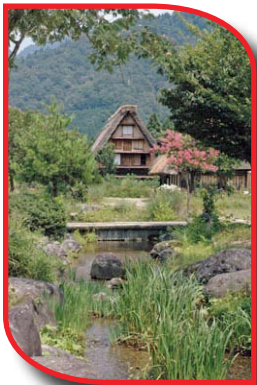
BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR ITINERARY

- DAY 01** Leave for Japan
- DAY 02** Arrive in Japan, Overnight in Tokyo
- DAY 03** Tokyo - Tsukiji Fish Market, Roppongi Hills Observation Deck, Ginza, Kushiage Lunch, Sumida River Cruise, Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji, Asakusa Shrine
- DAY 04** Kamakura - Hase-dera, Daibutsu, Komachi Shopping Street, Hokoku-ji Temple
- DAY 05** Tokyo, Hakone - Free day in Tokyo, Travel to Hakone, Overnight in Hakone
- DAY 06** Tour Hakone, Travel to Takayama
- DAY 07** Takayama - Miyagawa Morning Market, Jinyamae Morning Market, Takayama Jinya, Afternoon Free
- DAY 08** Travel to Shirakawa-go, Shirakawa-go Open Air Museum, Free time in Shirakawa-go, Travel to Kanzawa
- DAY 09** Kanazawa - Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum, Nagamachi Samurai District, Nomura House
- DAY 10** Travel to Hiroshima, Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, Overnight in Hiroshima
- DAY 11** Miyajima Island, Travel to Kyoto, Overnight in Kyoto
- DAY 12** Kyoto - Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle, Nishiki-koji Open Air Market, Tea Ceremony
- DAY 13** Kyoto - Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kiyomizu-dera, Higashiyama District, Gion Geisha District, Sayonara Dinner
- DAY 14** Return Home

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SAMURAI TOURS



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

VISIT WEBSITE FOR CURRENT TOUR STATUS

TOUR DATES	PRICES (LAND ONLY)	
Jun 23, 2012 to Jul 6, 2012	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Jul 21, 2012 to Aug 3, 2012	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Aug 25, 2012 to Sep 7, 2012	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Sep 22, 2012 to Oct 5, 2012	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Oct 20, 2012 to Nov 2, 2012	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Jun 22, 2013 to Jul 5, 2013	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Jul 20, 2013 to Aug 3, 2013	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Aug 24, 2013 to Sep 6, 2013	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Sep 21, 2013 to Oct 4, 2013	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250
Oct 20, 2013 to Nov 1, 2013	\$2,994	Single Supplement \$250

From top to bottom:
Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto
Shirakawa-go

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SAMURAI TOURS

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



BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: To Tokyo

Depart Home for Tokyo's Narita Airport. *(Travel: 12 hours)*

Day 2: Arrive Tokyo

You lose a day flying to Japan due to crossing the International Dateline, and gain the day back when you fly home. You will be welcomed at Tokyo's Narita airport by a Samurai Tours representative who will escort you into Tokyo. No meals included. *(Travel: 1-1/2 hours)*

Day 3: Tokyo

After breakfast, you will meet with the licensed, English-speaking guide who will escort you by subway to the Tsukiji Fish Market. This market is the largest in the world, and it is estimated that 20% of all of the fish caught in the world passes through this market. 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 Pier, we take a relaxing cruise on the Sumida River back to the Asakusa area. Here 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. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1 3/4 hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 4: Kamakura

After traveling by train to Kamakura, we arrive at the Daibutsu (Great Buddha). This 37 foot tall bronze statue of the Amida Buddha was created in 1252. Next, we will walk to Hase-dera temple, one of the most beautiful and saddest temples in Kamakura. We will return by train to the Kamakura station where we will stop for a little window shopping and lunch. After lunch, we travel by taxi to Hokoku-ji temple. Hokoku-ji, also known as the bamboo temple, is a lovely little Zen temple built in 1334. Here, we can sip powdered green tea and nibble Japanese sweets in the bamboo garden. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 5: Tokyo, Hakone Yumoto Onsen

The day is free to explore Tokyo 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. Late in the afternoon, we will travel to Hakone Yumoto Onsen, where we will stay overnight and where you can enjoy the thermally-heated mineral baths at the ryokan. Before leaving Tokyo, you will prepare your luggage to be transferred to Takayama, and will be traveling to Hakone and Takayama with an overnight bag only. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 hours; Walking: Light)*

Day 6: Hakone, Travel to Takayama

After checking out of the ryokan, 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 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

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From Top to Bottom:
Nakamise-dori Shopping Arcade,
Kannon statue in Hase-dera Temple



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BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

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.). After returning to Hakone Yumoto and picking up our overnight bags, we will continue on to Takayama. Takayama, in the middle of the Japan Alps, with its traditional inns, shops, and sake breweries, has managed to retain its traditional charm. After checking into the ryokan, the evening is free to enjoy one of the many nearby Hida Beef restaurants. (Hida Beef is the same thing as the more famous Kobe Beef.) Breakfast at a local bakery/coffee shop and lunch at a cafeteria is included. *(Travel: 5 hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 7: Takayama

This morning we stroll through the farmer's markets, sampling the numerous options from vegetable stands and stalls selling herbs, pickles, and souvenirs. After that, we tour the Takayama-jinya, which was the governing office of Takayama and the surrounding area since the early 17th century. The guide will take you to the Sanmachi-suji district, consisting of merchant homes dating back to the 16th century. From here the rest of the day is free to roam and explore Takayama. Visit the many temples, shrines and museums, rummage through antique shops, or relax at one of the sake breweries. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: None; Walking: Medium)*

Day 8: Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa

After breakfast, we take a highway bus to the valley of Shirakawa-go. Shirakawa-go is the home of many Gassho-zukuri (Praying Hand) style homes, which have been moved here from the surrounding area. These homes were first used as long ago as the 18th century and are still being used today. We stop for a short time to tour the open-air museum where you can explore some of these traditional farmhouses. Following an enjoyable lunch and some free time to explore in the afternoon, we catch another bus to the city of Kanazawa. Kanazawa, located on the northern coast of Japan, was once controlled by one of the wealthiest families in Japan, the Maeda Clan. They were admirers and sponsors of many traditional arts, and these arts flourished under their sponsorship. Many of these arts are still being practiced today in Kanazawa. Before leaving Takayama, you will need to prepare your main luggage for transfer to Kanazawa. We will be traveling to Kanazawa with an overnight bag only. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 2 hours; Walking: Medium.)*

Day 9: Kanazawa

We begin the day touring the Kenrokuen Garden. This garden is considered to be one of the three best gardens in Japan and was initially constructed in the 17th century. After enjoying the garden, we tour the Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum to learn how the local Kanazawa handicrafts are made. After lunch we will tour the Naga-machi Samurai District. This area of Kanazawa, located at the foot of Kanazawa Castle, was the residential district for the samurai serving the castle. The area preserves a historic atmosphere with its remaining samurai residences, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow lanes and water canals. Here, we will also tour the Nomura House. The Nomura family was a high-ranking retainer for the Maeda family. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 20 minutes; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 10: Travel to Hiroshima, Hiroshima

After an early breakfast, we will travel to Hiroshima where we will tour the Peace Memorial Museum and the Peace Memorial Park, which are both sobering testaments to the dropping of the A-bomb on August 6, 1945. *(Travel: 5 hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 11: Miyajima Island, Kyoto

We will travel by local train to the harbor where we will board a ferry for Miyajima Island. Miyajima Island is said by the Japanese to be one of the top three scenic sights in Japan. We will ride the cable car to the top of the mountain on Miyajima Island where you can visit with the local monkeys, and visit the Itsukushima-jinja shrine which was built in its present form in 1168. After some free time on the island, we will return to the mainland and travel to Kyoto. Steeped in history and tradition, Kyoto has in many ways been the cradle of Japanese culture. A stroll through Kyoto is a walk through 11 centuries of Japanese history. For many, just the name of Kyoto conjures up

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From Top to Bottom:
Tour group at Takayama
Morning Market,
Hokokuji Bamboo Temple,
Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa



SAMURAI TOURS



BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

the classic images of Japan: streets of traditional wooden houses, the click-clack of geta (wooden sandals) on the paving stones, geisha in a flourish of brightly colored silks, and a tea master deliberately warming water and making tea. Breakfast at the hotel is included.

(Travel: 5 hours; Walking: Heavy)

Day 12: Kyoto

We will start the morning at Kinkaku-ji. Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, is one of Kyoto's, as well as Japan's, most recognizable attractions. The gleaming building covered in gold leaf seems to float on the aptly named Mirror Pond, especially on a sunny day. Next, we will visit Nijo Castle. Built in 1603, it was the Kyoto home of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun. The ostentatious style of construction was intended as a demonstration of Ieyasu's prestige, and to signal the demise of the emperor's power. The finest artists of the day filled the castle with delicate transom woodcarvings and paintings by the Kano School on sliding doors. One of the castle's most intriguing features is the so-called "nightingale" floors. To protect the Shogun from real or imagined enemies, these floorboards creak when stepped on. After lunch we will tour the Nishiki-koji Open Air Market. Also known as Kyoto's Kitchen, the Nishiki-koji covered shopping arcade was established 400 years ago. This is where many restaurants and ryokans come to buy that day's meals. We will finish the day by participating in a tea ceremony. The stylized tea ceremony is performed according to procedures documented by Sen-no-Rikyu, the father of the modern tea ceremony who perfected the tea ceremony in the late 16th century. At one time, the tea ceremony was considered standard training for Samurai. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at local restaurant included. *(Travel: 2 hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 13: Kyoto

We start the day at the nearby Fushimi Inari Shrine. This Shinto shrine was established in the 8th century, and is dedicated to Inari, the Goddess of Cereal (Rice). Spread out over the expansive hillside location are more than 10,000 vermilion-colored torii gates, donated by thankful followers and the local sake breweries. These torii gates form kilometers-long tunnels of vermilion winding through the quiet woods and past many smaller shrines. Next, we will visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple. Kiyomizu-dera literally translates to "Pure Water Temple". For centuries visitors and pilgrims have climbed the hill to Kiyomizu-dera standing on a steep hillside with fine views of the city. Supported in part by 139 pillars, the temple juts out over the valley. Finding the courage to set out on a daring, new adventure is likened to "taking a leap from the veranda of Kiyomizu". Below the temple is the Sound of Feathers waterfall, believed to be the name source of the temple. Water from this spring is drunk from long-handled cups, and thought to prevent illness, make the drinker wiser or add years to life expectancy. But you have to choose one. It is considered greedy to drink all three. Next, we will explore the narrow, cobblestone-paved streets and alleys of the Higashiyama District. We will finish the afternoon with a visit to the famous Gion Geisha District. Here, you will see where the Geisha live and work while you learn about this mysterious world. You may even see one on their way to one of their appointments. We will enjoy our "Sayonara" dinner in a nearby restaurant. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch and dinner at a local restaurant included.

(Travel: 1 Hour; Walking: Heavy)

Day 14: Kyoto/Nara

It's time to say "sayonara" (goodbye). You will be escorted from the hotel to the Kyoto train station. From there, you will take the express train on your own to the Kansai International Airport, just outside Osaka, or return to Narita Airport by Shinkansen and Narita express train on your own for your flight back home. (If you are flying out of Narita Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3PM.) Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 to 4 Hours; Walking: Light)*

From Top to Bottom:
Nijo Castle in Kyoto,
Todai-ji Temple in Nara,
Kyoto Geisha

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SAMURAI TOURS

BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR - INCLUSIONS

- Airport transfer from Tokyo's Narita Airport and airport transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport or Osaka's Kansai Airport (Transfers to Osaka's Itami Airport are not included.)
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport and sending service to the Kyoto train station. (The meeting service will meet you at the airport and escort you to the hotel in Tokyo. The sending service will escort you to the Kyoto 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 Kyoto train station.)
- Lodging for 12 nights in Western-style hotels (3 Star) or Japanese-style ryokans including all taxes and fees (all accommodations are subject to change)
 - Tokyo - Dormy Inn Asakusa
 - Hakone Yumoto Onsen - Yajikitanoyu Ryokan
 - Takayama - Best Western Takayama
 - Kanazawa - Dormy Inn Kanazawa
 - Hiroshima - Hotel New Hiroden
 - Kyoto - Palace Side Hotel
- Meals
 - Breakfast every morning
 - 7 Western-style or Japanese-style lunches
 - 1 Japanese-style dinner
- 14 Day Japan Rail Pass
- 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.)
- Admission fees to the following destinations and activities (itinerary specifics subject to change):

TOKYO

Tsukiji Fish Market
Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
Ginza
Sumida River Cruise
Nakamise-dori
Senso-ji
Asakusa Shrine

KAMAKURA

Hase-dera
Kaibutsu (Great Buddha)
Hokoku-ji Temple

HAKONE YUMOTO ONSEN

HAKONE

Hakone Ropeway
Owakudani
Hakone Sightseeing Boat Cruise

TAKAYAMA

Miyagawa Morning Market
Jinyamae Morning Market
Takayama Jinya

SHIRAKAWAGO

Shirakawago Open Air Museum

KANAZAWA

Kenrokuen Garden
Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum
Nagamachi Samurai District
Nomura House

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima Peace Park
Hiroshima Peace Museum

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

Mt. Misen Ropeway
Itsukushima Shrine
Omotosando Shopping Street

KYOTO

Kinkakuji
Nijo Castle
Nishikikoji
Tea ceremony
Fushimi Inari Shrine
Kiyomizu
Higashiyama
Gion



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BEST OF JAPAN ECONOMY TOUR - INCLUSIONS

- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Luggage delivery from the ryokan in Tokyo to the ryokan in Takayama (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from the ryokan in Takayama to the ryokan in Osaka (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from the ryokan in Osaka to the ryokan in Kyoto (one bag only)
- Luggage lockers in Hiroshima
- Each tour member receives an electronic copy of our 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, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included - except at the sayonara dinner



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SAMURAI TOURS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

TOKYO

- Tsukiji Fish Market
- Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
- Ginza
- Sumida River Cruise
- Nakamise-dori
- Senso-ji
- Asakusa Shrine

YAMANOUCHI

- Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park

MATSUMOTO

- Matsumoto Castle
- Ukiyoe Museum
- Daio Wasabi Farm

TSUMAGO

- Honjin
- Wakihonjin
- Reshiki Shiryokan

TAKAYAMA

- Miyagawa Morning Market
- Jinyamae Morning Market
- Takayama Jinya
- Sanmachi-suji

SHIRAKAWAGO

- Shirakawago Open Air Museum

KANAZAWA

- Kenrokuen Garden
- Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum
- Nagamachi Samurai District
- Nomura House

KYOTO

- Kinkakuji
- Nijo Castle
- Nishikikoji
- Tea ceremony
- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Kiyomizu
- Higashiyama
- Gion Geisha District

Best of Japan Alps Economy Tour

12 Days | 10 Nights

Soaring mountain peaks, open-air hot springs, lush forests, quaint mountain villages and a slow pace make this central alpine area a great escape. Hidden away in its rural and remote valleys are many of Japan's best-preserved post towns, farm hamlets, and traces of the old urban culture. Combined with its beautiful natural scenery, these features make this area one of the most rewarding in Japan to visit.

DESTINATIONS

Tokyo, Jigokudani Snow Money Park, Matsumoto, Tsumago, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto

Between the imperial city of Kyoto, and the shogun's city of Tokyo, lies the area of Japan known as the Japan Alps. This area of Japan epitomizes the extremes and contradictions of Japan today. The densely populated coastal belt city of Tokyo is a stark contrast with the beautiful natural scenery of the mountainous central area. Though readily accessible, the Japan Alps is still remote enough to have retained traditional lifestyles and architecture.

The Japan Alps is a slow-paced region that has it all, without the crowds. Quite opposite is the huge megalopolis of Tokyo, where the sheer energy level of the city will sweep you away. The castle town of Matsumoto, with its striking "Crow Castle" and numerous 17th century warehouses is sure to please. You will feel like you have stepped back into 16th-century Japan in the small, mountain village of Tsumago. The quaint town of Takayama with its farmer's markets invites exploration. The old farmhouses at Shirakawa-go will give you a glimpse of the way of life in 17th-century rural Japan. Kanazawa has one of Japan's best gardens, and is home to many traditional Japanese handicrafts. And Kyoto, the cultural capital of Japan, has something for everyone.

You will tour one of the best gardens in Japan, attend an authentic tea ceremony, shop in a farmer's market, climb to the top of a Samurai castle, visit the world's largest fish market, see where the geisha live and work, visit the world-famous Ginza, and much, much more.

MAP OF TOUR DESTINATIONS



For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



SAMURAI TOURS



BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR ITINERARY

- DAY 01** Leave for Japan
- DAY 02** Arrive in Japan, Overnight in Tokyo
- DAY 03** Tokyo - Tsukiji Fish Market, Roppongi Hills Observation, Ginza, Sumida River Cruise, Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji, Asakusa Shrine
- DAY 04** Travel to Yamanouchi, Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park, Travel to Matsumoto
- DAY 05** Matsumoto - Matsumoto Castle, Ukiyoe Museum, Daio Wasabi Farm
- DAY 06** Travel to Tsumago, Wakihonjin, Reshiki Shiryokan, Honjin, Travel to Takayama
- DAY 07** Takayama - Miyagawa Morning Market, Jinyamae Morning Market, Takayama Jinya
- DAY 08** Travel to Shirakawa-go, Shirakawa-go Open Air Market, Free time in Shirakawa-go, Travel to Kanazawa
- DAY 09** Kanazawa - Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum, Nagamachi Samurai District, Nomura House
- DAY 10** Travel to Kyoto, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle
- DAY 11** Kyoto - Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kiyomizu-dera, Higashiyama District, Gion Geisha District, Sayonara Dinner
- DAY 12** Return Home

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

[VISIT WEBSITE FOR CURRENT TOUR STATUS](#)

TOUR DATES	PRICES (LAND ONLY)	
Jun 30, 2012 – Jul 11, 2012	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250
Jul 21, 2012 – Aug 1, 2012	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250
Aug 25, 2012 – Sep 5, 2012	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250
Jun 29, 2013 – Jul 10, 2013	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250
Jul 20, 2013 – Aug 2, 2013	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250
Aug 24, 2013 – Sep 4, 2013	\$2,744	Single Supplement: \$250

From Top to Bottom:
Thatched Hut in Shirakawa-go,
River in Kamikochi,
Tsumago

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



SAMURAI TOURS

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:
Nakamise-dori Shopping Arcade,
Matsumoto Castle

BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: To Tokyo

Depart Home for Tokyo's Narita Airport. *(Travel: 12 hours)*

Day 2: Arrive Tokyo

You lose a day flying to Japan due to crossing the International Dateline, and gain the day back when you fly home. You will be welcomed at Tokyo's Narita airport by a Samurai Tours representative who will escort you into Tokyo. No meals included. *(Travel: 1-1/2 hours)*

Day 3: Tokyo

After breakfast, you will meet with the licensed, English-speaking guide who will escort you by subway to the Tsukiji Fish Market. This market is the largest in the world, and it is estimated that 20% of all of the fish caught in the world passes through this market. 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 Pier, we take a relaxing cruise on the Sumida River to the Asakusa area. Here 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. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1 3/4 hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 4: Yamanouchi, Matsumoto

We will travel by Shinkansen, express train and bus to the Yamanouchi area. Here, at the Jigokudani (Hell Valley), we will delight in the famous "snow monkeys" of Japan. These monkeys are world-famous for using the hot springs baths. These Red-Faced "snow monkeys" are only found in Japan, and during the entire year, the monkeys enjoy using the baths, just like people. We will return by bus and express train to the city of Nagano, where we will travel by express train to the city of Matsumoto. From the moment you step off the train and hear the announcement "Matsumotooooo," you will recognize you are someplace special. Matsumoto is unique because of its many beautiful Edo-period (17th-to-19th-century) Kura (warehouses) with their striking black-and-white contrasting latticework. Today these warehouses house restaurants and shops. Before leaving Tokyo, you will need to prepare your luggage to transfer to Matsumoto. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 5: Matsumoto

In the morning, we begin at the famous Matsumoto Castle. This beautiful castle is also known as Crow Castle because of its stark black walls. The castle was first built in 1504 and remodeled into its current form at the turn of the 17th century. Climbing to the top of the main tower, you will have a wonderful view of the city and the surrounding mountains. Next we will visit the Japan Ukiyoe (Woodblock Print) Museum. The museum is devoted to the widely popular woodblock prints of 17th- and 18th-century Japan. The family that owns the museum has more than 100,000 prints that are rotated monthly. There is also an excellent demonstration of how woodblock prints are made. In the afternoon we will visit the nearby Daio Wasabi Farm. Here you can learn more about this Japanese condiment staple, while enjoying the many foods flavored with wasabi including ice cream. The farm is also famous for its river that flows through the farm with many watermills. The river appeared in the 1990 film, *Dreams*, by Akira Kurosawa in a segment called the "Village of the Watermills." Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 hours; Walking: Medium)*

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SAMURAI TOURS



From Top to Bottom:
Snow monkeys in Jigoku-dani,
Path through forest in Kamikochi,
Tour group at Takayama
Morning Market

BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 6: Tsumago, Travel to Takayama

Today we visit the historic village of Tsumago. Tsumago was once a major stop on the Nakasendo, a highway through the Japan Alps. After the Tokkaido Highway was built near the coast, Tsumago and the other towns along this highway became ghost towns. Tremendous efforts have been made recently to rebuild the memory and feel of these old settlements. All of the electrical and utility lines have been removed and placed underground. You will feel like you truly stepped into 17th-century Japan. We will tour the Honjin, where the daimyo (feudal lords) would stay, the Wakihonjin where the higher-level samurai would stay and the Rekishi Shiryokan, a museum documenting the history of Tsumago and Kiso Valley (the surrounding river valley). Before continuing to Takayama in the late afternoon, you will have some free time to explore Tsumago on your own. Before leaving Matsumoto, you will prepare your luggage to be delivered to Takayama. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant is included. *(Travel: 6 hours; Walking: Light)*

Day 7: Takayama

This morning we stroll through the farmer's market, sampling the numerous options from vegetable stands and stalls selling herbs, pickles, and souvenirs. After that, we tour the Takayama-jinya, which was the governing office of Takayama and the surrounding area since the early 17th century. The guide will take you to the Sanmachi-suji district, consisting of merchant homes dating back to the 16th century. From here the rest of the day is free to roam and explore Takayama. Visit the many temples, shrines and museums, rummage through antique shops, or relax at one of the sake breweries. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: None; Walking: Medium)*

Day 8: Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa

After breakfast, we take a highway bus to the valley of Shirakawa-go. Shirakawa-go is the home of many Gassho-zukuri (Praying Hand) style homes, which have been moved here from the surrounding area. These homes were first used as far back as the 18th century and are still being used today. We stop for a short time to tour the open-air museum where you can explore 25 of these traditional farmhouses. Following an enjoyable lunch and some free time to explore in the afternoon, we catch another bus to the city of Kanazawa. Kanazawa, located on the northern coast of Japan, was once controlled by one of the wealthiest families in Japan, the Maeda Clan. They were admirers and sponsors of many traditional arts, and these arts flourished under their sponsorship. Many of these arts are still being practiced today in Kanazawa. Before leaving Takayama, you will need to prepare your main luggage for transfer to Kanazawa. We will be traveling to Kanazawa with an overnight bag only. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 2 hours; Walking: Medium.)*

Day 9: Kanazawa

We begin the day touring the Kenrokuen Garden. This garden is considered to be one of the three best gardens in Japan and was initially constructed in the 17th century. After enjoying the garden, we tour the Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum to learn how the local Kanazawa handicrafts are made. After lunch we will tour the Naga-machi Samurai District. This area of Kanazawa, located at the foot of Kanazawa Castle, was the residential district for the samurai serving the castle. The area preserves a historic atmosphere with its remaining samurai residences, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow lanes and water canals. Here, we will also tour the Nomura House. The Nomura family was a high-ranking retainer for the Maeda family. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 30 minutes; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 10: Travel to Kyoto, Kyoto

After breakfast, we will travel to Kyoto. Steeped in history and tradition, Kyoto has in many ways been the cradle of Japanese culture. A stroll through Kyoto is a walk through 11 centuries of Japanese history. For many, just the name of Kyoto conjures up the classic images of Japan: streets of traditional wooden houses, the click-clack of geta (wooden sandals) on the paving stones, geisha in a flourish of brightly colored silks, and a tea master deliberately warming water and making tea. We will start the afternoon at Kinkaku-ji. Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, is one of Kyoto's, as well as Japan's, most recognizable attractions. The gleaming building

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SAMURAI TOURS



BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

covered in gold leaf seems to float on the aptly named Mirror Pond, especially on a sunny day. Next, we will visit Nijo Castle. Built in 1603, it was the Kyoto home of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun. The ostentatious style of construction was intended as a demonstration of Ieyasu's prestige, and to signal the demise of the emperor's power. The finest artists of the day filled the castle with delicate transom woodcarvings and paintings by the Kano School on sliding doors. One of the castle's most intriguing features is the so-called "nightingale" floors. To protect the Shogun from real or imagined enemies, these floorboards creak when stepped on. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant is included. *(Travel: 4 hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 11: Kyoto

Today we will start by touring the nearby Fushimi Inari Shrine. This Shinto shrine was established in the 8th century, and is dedicated to Inari, the Goddess of Cereal (Rice). Spread out over the expansive hillside location are more than 10,000 vermilion-colored torii gates, donated by thankful followers and the local sake breweries. These torii gates form kilometers-long tunnels of vermilion winding through the quiet woods and past many smaller shrines. Next, we will visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple. Kiyomizu-dera literally translates to "Pure Water Temple". For centuries visitors and pilgrims have climbed the hill to Kiyomizu-dera standing on a steep hillside with fine views of the city. Supported in part by 139 pillars, the temple juts out over the valley. Finding the courage to set out on a daring, new adventure is likened to "taking a leap from the veranda of Kiyomizu". Below the temple is the Sound of Feathers waterfall, believed to be the name source of the temple. Water from this spring is drunk from long-handled cups, and thought to prevent illness, make the drinker wiser or add years to life expectancy. But you have to choose one. It is considered greedy to drink all three. Next, we will explore the narrow, cobblestone-paved streets and alleys of the Higashiyama District. We will finish the afternoon with a visit to the famous Gion Geisha District. Here, you will see where the Geisha live and work while you learn about this mysterious world. You may even see one on their way to one of their appointments. We will finish the day with our "Sayonara" dinner. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch and dinner at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1 hour; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 12: Return Home

It's time to say "sayonara" (goodbye). You will be escorted from the hotel to the Kyoto train station. From there, you will take the express train on your own to the Kansai International Airport, just outside Osaka, or return to Narita Airport by Shinkansen and Narita express train on your own for your flight back home. (If you are flying out of Narita Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3PM.) Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 hours; Walking: Light)*

From Top to Bottom:
Kenrokuen Garden in Kanazawa,
Kiyomizu-dera Temple in Kyoto,
Fushimi Inari Shrine

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



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BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR - INCLUSIONS

- Airport transfer from Tokyo's Narita Airport and airport transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport or Osaka's Kansai Airport (Transfers to Osaka's Itami Airport are not included.)
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport and sending service to the Kyoto train station. (The meeting service will meet you at the airport and escort you to the hotel in Tokyo. The sending service will escort you to the Kyoto 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 Kyoto train station.)
- Accommodations in hotels (3-star) including all taxes, fees and breakfast every morning (all accommodations are subject to change)
 - Tokyo - Toyoko Inn Tokyo Shinagawa-eki Takanawa-guchi
 - Matsumoto - Dormy Inn Matsumoto
 - Takayama - Best Western Takayama
 - Kanazawa - Dormy Inn Kanazawa
 - Kyoto - Palace Side Hotel
- Meals
 - Breakfast every morning
 - 7 Western-style and Japanese-style lunches
 - 2 Japanese-style dinners
- 7 Day Japan Rail Pass
- 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.)
- Admission fees to the following destinations and activities (itinerary specifics subject to change):

TOKYO

Tsukiji Fish Market
 Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
 Ginza
 Sumida River Cruise
 Nakamise-dori
 Senso-ji
 Asakusa Shrine

YAMANOUCHI

Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park

MATSUMOTO

Matsumoto Castle
 Ukiyoe Museum
 Daio Wasabi Farm

TSUMAGO

Honjin
 Wakihonjin
 Reshiki Shiryokan

TAKAYAMA

Miyagawa Morning Market
 Jinyamae Morning Market
 Takayama Jinya
 Sanmachisuji

SHIRAKAWAGO

Shirakawago Open Air Museum

KANAZAWA

Kenrokuen Garden
 Kanazawa Handicrafts Museum
 Nagamachi Samurai District
 Nomura House

KYOTO

Kinkakuji
 Nijo Castle
 Nishikikoji
 Tea ceremony
 Fushimi Inari Shrine
 Kiyomizu
 Higashiyama
 Gion Geisha District

- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Luggage delivery from Tokyo to Matsumoto
- Luggage delivery from Matsumoto to Takayama (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from Takayama to Kanazawa (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from Kanazawa to Kyoto (one bag only)
- Luggage lockers in Shirakawa-go

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



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BEST OF JAPAN ALPS ECONOMY TOUR - INCLUSIONS

- Each tour member receives an electronic copy of our tour handbook. This handbook is full of tips and suggestions taken from our Japan travel experiences that 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, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included - except at the sayonara dinner



SAMURAI TOURS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

TOKYO

- Tsukiji Fish Market
- Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
- Ginza
- Sumida River Cruise
- Nakamise-dori
- Senso-ji
- Asakusa Shrine

HAKONE YUMOTO ONSEN

HAKONE

- Hakone Ropeway
- Owakudani
- Hakone Sightseeing Boat Cruise

KYOTO

- Kinkakuji
- Nijo Castle
- Nishikikoji
- Tea ceremony
- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Kiyomizu
- Higashiyama
- Gion Geisha District

OPTIONAL

HIROSHIMA

- Peace Park
- Peace Museum

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

- Itsukushima Shrine
- Mt Misen Ropeway

Tokkaido Highway Economy Tour

11 Days | 9 Nights

[GO TO WEBSITE](#)

The Tokkaido Highway, built by the Tokugawa Shoguns in the early 17th century, connected the new military capital of Tokyo with the imperial, cultural capital of Kyoto. Follow in the steps of Daimyo (feudal lords) and Samurai as you visit the two greatest cities of Japan.

DESTINATIONS

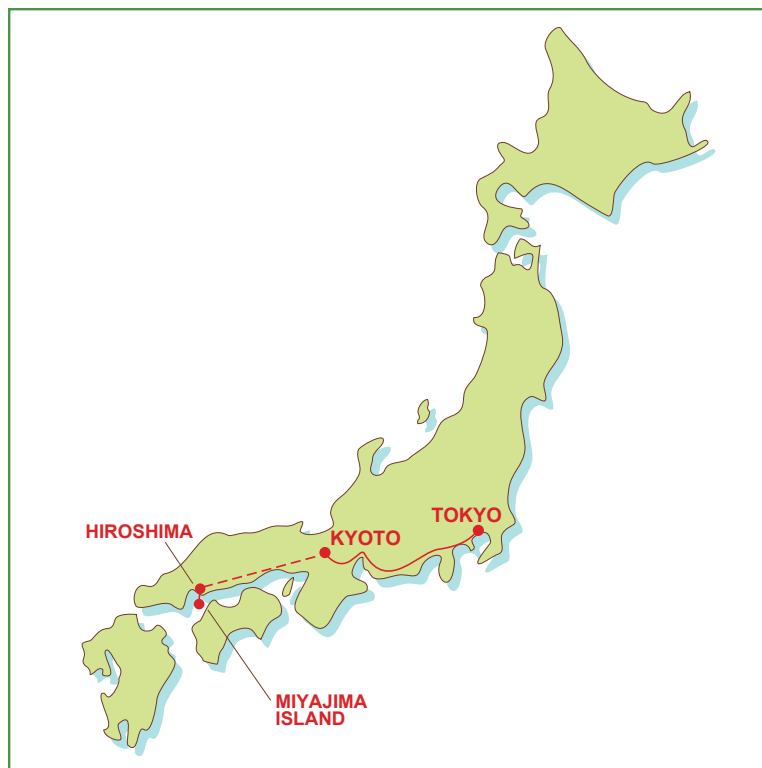
Tokyo, Kyoto

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. 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. Tokyo is not just a destination, but an experience.

Steeped in history and tradition, Kyoto has in many ways been the cradle of Japanese culture. A stroll through Kyoto today is a walk through 11 centuries of Japanese history. Kyoto is endowed with an almost overwhelming legacy of ancient Buddhist temples, majestic palaces, and gardens of every size and description. For many, just the name of Kyoto conjures up the classic images of Japan: streets of traditional wooden houses, the click-clack of geta (wooden sandals) on the paving stones, geisha in a flourish of brightly colored silks, and a tea master deliberately warming water and making tea.

If you have the extra time, customize your itinerary by adding the available upgrades to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island.

MAP OF TOUR DESTINATIONS



For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



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Photos Top to Bottom:
Tower in Ginza at Night,
Shinkansens (Bullet Trains)
at the Tokyo Train Station,
Senso-ji Temple

TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY ECONOMY TOUR ITINERARY

- DAY 01:** Leave for Japan
- DAY 02:** Arrive in Japan, Overnight in Tokyo
- DAY 03:** Tokyo - Tsukiji Fish Market, Roppongi Hills Observation, Ginza, Kushiage Lunch, Sumida River Cruise, Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji, Asakusa Shrine
- DAY 04:** Kamakura - Hase-dera, Daibutsu
- DAY 05:** Tokyo, Hakone - Free day in Tokyo, Travel to Hakone, Overnight in Hakone
- DAY 06:** Tour Hakone, Travel to Kyoto
- DAY 07:** Kyoto - Kinkakuji, Nijo Castle, Nishiki-koji, Tea Ceremony
- DAY 08:** Kyoto - Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kiyomizu-dera, Higashiyama District, Gion Geisha District
- DAY 09:** Return Home
- HIROSHIMA OPTION:**
- DAY 09:** Travel to Hiroshima, Tour Peace Park and Museum
- DAY 10:** Miyajima Island - Mt. Misen Ropeway, Itsukushima Shrine, Omotesando Shopping Street, Travel to Kyoto
- DAY 11:** Return Home

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

VISIT WEBSITE FOR CURRENT TOUR STATUS

TOUR DATES	PRICES (LAND ONLY)	
May 26, 2012 – Jun 5, 2012	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Jul 28, 2012 – Aug 7, 2012	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Sep 1, 2012 – Sep 11, 2012	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Oct 27, 2012 – Nov 6, 2012	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
May 25, 2013 – Jun 4, 2013	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Jul 27, 2013 – Aug 6, 2013	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Aug 31, 2013 – Sep 11, 2013	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300
Oct 26, 2013 – Nov 5, 2013	\$1,794	Single Supplement \$300

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SAMURAI TOURS

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



Daibutsu (Great Buddha)
in Kamakura,
Tour Group at Senso-ji Temple

TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: To Tokyo

Depart Home for Tokyo's Narita Airport. *(Travel: 12 Hours)*

Day 2: Arrive Tokyo

You lose a day flying to Japan due to crossing the International Dateline, and gain the day back when you fly home. You will be welcomed at Tokyo's Narita airport by a Samurai Tours representative who will escort you into Tokyo. No meals included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 Hours)*

Day 3: Tokyo

After breakfast, you will meet with the licensed, English-speaking guide who will escort you by subway to the Tsukiji Fish Market. This market is the largest in the world, and it is estimated that 20% of all of the fish caught in the world passes through this market. 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 Pier, we take a relaxing cruise on the Sumida River back to the Asakusa area. Here 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. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1 3/4 Hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 4: Kamakura

After traveling by train to Kamakura, we arrive at the Daibutsu (Great Buddha). This 37 foot tall bronze statue of the Amida Buddha was created in 1252. Next, we will walk to Hase-dera temple, one of the most beautiful and saddest temples in Kamakura. After this we will return by train to the Kamakura station. Here, we will stop for a little window shopping and lunch. After lunch, we travel by taxi to Hokoku-ji temple. Hokoku-ji, also known as the bamboo temple, is a lovely little Zen temple built in 1334. Here, we can sip powdered green tea and nibble Japanese sweets in the bamboo garden. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant are included. *(Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 5: Tokyo, Hakone Yumoto Onsen

The day is free to explore Tokyo 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. Late in the afternoon, we will travel to Hakone Yumoto Onsen, where we will stay overnight and where you can enjoy the thermally-heated mineral baths at the ryokan. Before leaving Tokyo, you will prepare your luggage to be transferred to Kyoto, and will be traveling to Hakone and Kyoto with an overnight bag only. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Light)*

Day 6: Hakone, Travel to Kyoto

After checking out of the ryokan, 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 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

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Imperial Palace in Kyoto,
Kyoto Geisha,
Tour member participating in
Authentic Tea Ceremony

TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

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.) After returning to Hakone Yumoto and picking up our overnight bags, we will continue on to Kyoto. Breakfast at a local bakery/coffee shop and lunch at a cafeteria is included. *(Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 7: Kyoto

We will start the morning at Kinkaku-ji. Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, is one of Kyoto's, as well as Japan's, most recognizable attractions. The gleaming building covered in gold leaf seems to float on the aptly named Mirror Pond, especially on a sunny day. Next, we will visit Nijo Castle. Built in 1603, it was the Kyoto home of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun. The ostentatious style of construction was intended as a demonstration of Ieyasu's prestige, and to signal the demise of the emperor's power. The finest artists of the day filled the castle with delicate transom woodcarvings and paintings by the Kano School on sliding doors. One of the castle's most intriguing features is the so-called "nightingale" floors. To protect the Shogun from real or imagined enemies, these floorboards creak when stepped on. After lunch we will tour the Nishiki-koji Open Air Market. Also known as Kyoto's Kitchen, the Nishiki-koji covered shopping arcade was established 400 years ago. This is where many restaurants and ryokans come to buy that day's meals. We will finish the day by participating in a tea ceremony. The stylized tea ceremony is performed according to procedures documented by Sen-no-Rikyu, the father of the modern tea ceremony who perfected the tea ceremony in the late 16th century. At one time, the tea ceremony was considered standard training for Samurai. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch at local restaurant included. *(Travel: 2 Hours; Walking: Medium)*

Day 8: Kyoto

We start the day by touring Fushimi Inari Shrine. This Shinto shrine was established in the 8th century, and is dedicated to Inari, the Goddess of Cereal (Rice). Spread out over the expansive hillside location are more than 10,000 vermilion-colored torii gates, donated by thankful followers and the local sake breweries. These torii gates form kilometers-long tunnels of vermilion winding through the quiet woods and past many smaller shrines. Next, we will visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple. Kiyomizu-dera literally translates to "Pure Water Temple". For centuries visitors and pilgrims have climbed the hill to Kiyomizu-dera standing on a steep hillside with fine views of the city. Supported in part by 139 pillars, the temple juts out over the valley. Finding the courage to set out on a daring, new adventure is likened to "taking a leap from the veranda of Kiyomizu". Below the temple is the Sound of Feathers waterfall, believed to be the name source of the temple. Water from this spring is drunk from one of the natural springs using long-handled cups. The water from each spring is thought to prevent illness, make the drinker wiser or add years to life expectancy. But you have to choose one. It is considered greedy to drink all three. Next, we will explore the narrow, cobblestone-paved streets and alleys of the Higashiyama District. We will finish the afternoon with a visit to the famous Gion Geisha District. Here, you will see where the Geisha live and work while you learn about this mysterious world. You may even see one on their way to one of their appointments. We will finish the day with our "Sayonara" dinner after walking through the nearby Pontocho Geisha District. Breakfast at the hotel and lunch and dinner at a local restaurant included. *(Travel: 1 Hour; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 9: Return Home

It's time to say "sayonara" (goodbye). You will be escorted from the hotel to the Kyoto train station. From there, you will take the express train on your own to the Kansai International Airport, just outside Osaka, or return to Narita Airport by Shinkansen and Narita express train on your own for your flight back home. (If you are flying out of Narita Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3PM.) Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 1/2 to 4 Hours; Walking: Light)*

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



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TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY ECONOMY TOUR - DETAILED ITINERARY

HIROSHIMA OPTION

Day 9: Travel to Hiroshima, Peace Park and Museum

You will travel by Shinkansen to Hiroshima, where we will tour the Peace Memorial Museum and the Peace Memorial Park, both sobering testaments to the dropping of the A-bomb on August 6, 1945. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 10: Miyajima Island, Travel to Kyoto

We will travel by local train to the harbor where we will board a ferry for Miyajima Island. Miyajima Island is said by the Japanese to be one of the top three scenic sights in Japan. We will ride the cable car to the top of the mountain on Miyajima Island where you can visit with the local monkeys, and visit the Itsukushima-jinja shrine which was built in its present form in 1168. After some free time on the island, we will return to the mainland and travel to Kyoto. Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 5 Hours; Walking: Heavy)*

Day 11: Return Home

It's time to say "sayonara" (goodbye). You will be escorted from the hotel to the Kyoto train station. From there, you will take the express train on your own to the Kansai International Airport, just outside Osaka, or return to Narita Airport by Shinkansen and Narita express train on your own for your flight back home. (If you are flying out of Narita Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 3PM.) Breakfast at the hotel is included. *(Travel: 1 to 4 Hours; Walking: Light)*

Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima;
Floating Torii, Miyajima Island;
Monkeys on Mt. Misen

For more information call 1-866-316-7268 or email us at info@samuraitours.com



SAMURAI TOURS

TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY ECONOMY TOUR - INCLUSIONS

- Airport transfer from Tokyo's Narita Airport and airport transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport or Osaka's Kansai Airport (Transfers to Osaka's Itami Airport are not included.)
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport and sending service to the Kyoto 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 Kyoto 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 Kyoto train station.)
- Accommodations in hotels (3-star) and ryokan including all taxes, fees and breakfast every morning (all accommodations are subject to change)
 - Tokyo - Toyoko Inn Tokyo Shinagawa-eki Takanawa-guchi
 - Hakone Yumoto Onsen - Yajikitanoyu Ryokan
 - Kyoto - Palace Side Hotel
- Meals
 - Breakfast every morning
 - 5 Western-style and Japanese-style lunches
 - 1 Japanese-style dinner
- 7 Day Japan Rail Pass (allows unlimited train travel)
- 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.)
- Admission fees to the following destinations and activities (itinerary specifics subject to change):

TOKYO

Tsukiji Fish Market
 Roppongi Hills Observation Deck
 Ginza
 Sumida River Cruise
 Nakamise-dori
 Senso-ji
 Asakusa Shrine

HAKONE YUMOTO ONSEN

HAKONE

Hakone Ropeway
 Owakudani
 Hakone Sightseeing Boat Cruise

KYOTO

Kinkakuji
 Nijo Castle
 Nishikikoji
 Tea ceremony
 Fushimi Inari Shrine
 Kiyomizu
 Higashiyama
 Gion Geisha District

OPTIONAL

HIROSHIMA

Peace Park
 Peace Museum

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

Itsukushima Shrine
 Mt Misen Ropeway

- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Luggage delivery from Tokyo to Matsumoto
- Luggage delivery from Matsumoto to Takayama (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from Takayama to Kanazawa (one bag only)
- Luggage delivery from Kanazawa to Kyoto (one bag only)
- Luggage lockers in Shirakawa-go

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- Each tour member receives an electronic copy of our tour handbook. This handbook is full of tips and suggestions taken from our Japan travel experiences that 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, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included - except at the sayonara dinner