



# **SAMURAI TOURS**

*Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan*

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[www.samuraitours.com](http://www.samuraitours.com)

## **Tokaido Highway**



7 Days / 6 Nights

# Tokaido Highway

## Tour Overview

The Tokaido 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, Hakone, Kyoto, Fushimi Optional Tour, Tokyo Optional Morning and Afternoon Food Tour*

## Tour Factors



Cultural Immersion



Pace



Physical Activity



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## **Tour Details**

Tokyo may seem like a whirlwind of people and traffic, yet behind the ordered chaos lies 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 Asakusa's ancient temple to the Ginza's ultra-modern department stores and shops, the sheer energy level of Tokyo will sweep you away. Business men flood the streets by day, and mazes of blazing neon and lively pedestrians fill the streets by night. Tokyo is not just a destination- it's 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 shape and size. 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 stone-paved roads, geisha in a flourish of brightly colored silks and a tea master warming water and making tea.

If you have the extra time, customize your itinerary by adding the available upgrades to some of Japan's most popular destinations.

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## **Map**



## 📍 Destinations



### Tokyo

*Sensoji, Ginza, Observation Deck, Sumida River Cruise, Optional Tsukiji Market and Cooking Class Optional Tours*

***Learn More***



### Hakone

*Hakone Ropeway, Lake Ashi Sightseeing Boats*

***Learn More***



### Kyoto

*Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji, Nishikikoji, Tea Ceremony, Optional tour of Fushimi Inari, Higashiyama, Gion*

***Learn More***

# Itinerary

## **Day 1 Arrive in Tokyo**

After clearing customs and immigration, you will be met at Tokyo's Narita Airport by a Samurai Tours meeting staff member. They will then purchase a limousine bus ticket for you and help you board the bus to the ryokan. After checking in, the evening is free. No meals are included.

**Travel: 1-1/2 Hours; Walking: Light**

## **Day 2 Tokyo - Sensoji Temple and Asakusa Shrine, Seaside Top Observation Deck, Ginza District, Yakatabune Dinner Cruise**

After breakfast, we will begin with a welcome/orientation meeting. We will then tour the Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji Buddhist Temple and the Asakusa Shrine where you will learn about Buddhist and Shinto Japanese religious practices. Senso-ji Temple is the busiest temple in Tokyo, and its history dates back to the 7th century. Next we will travel to the Seaside Top Observation Deck, located in the World Trade Center (WTC) building. Here 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. After taking a taxi to the Hinode Pier, we take a relaxing cruise on the Sumida River on our return to the ryokan. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant included.

**Travel: 13/4 Hours; Walking: Heavy**

## **Day 3 Tokyo - Free Day; Optional Morning Market Tour**

Today is a free day to enjoy the world-class city of Tokyo. Go shopping for that perfect souvenir, visit the Tokyo National Museum, or wander through the trendy Shibuya or Harajuku districts where you will more than likely see interesting and far-out fashions.

**Travel: 1/2 Hours; Walking: Medium**

## **Day 4 Travel to Hakone; Tour Hakone - Hakone Ropeway, Hakone Lake Ashi Sightseeing Boats; Travel to Kyoto**

After breakfast we will travel to 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.

In the afternoon, you will travel by Shinkansen (bullet train) to the city of Kyoto. You will be escorted to the train, met on the platform in Kyoto and escorted to the ryokan in Kyoto. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at local restaurant is included.

Before leaving Tokyo, you will need to prepare your luggage for transfer to Kyoto. You will need to take an overnight bag with you with enough clothing and other items for two days and one night.

PLEASE NOTE: High winds and/or heavy rain can, and will often cause cessation of services on the Sightseeing Boat cruise and/or ropeway. Should this occur, we will not be able to operate the itinerary as listed above, and will replace it with the best possible alternative given the weather conditions. Also, in the case of bad weather, even if the boats are still operating, we may alter the itinerary for your comfort and safety as Mt. Fuji will more than likely not be visible anyway.

**Travel: 6 Hours; Walking: Light**

### **Day 5 Kyoto - Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), Nishiki Koji, Tea Ceremony**

After breakfast, we will start the day at the 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. Next we will visit Kinkaku-ji. Also known as the Golden Pavilion, it 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. After lunch you will have some free time at Nishiki Koji. Nishiki Koji is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen", this lively retail market specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood and sushi. Following this free time, we will participate in an authentic tea ceremony. The regimented discipline of the tea ceremony has been practiced for more than 400 years, and at one time was considered mandatory for Samurai as an aid to train the mind. After the tea ceremony, we will return to the ryokan. After returning to the ryokan, you will pick up your luggage sent from Tokyo. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant included.

**Travel: 1 Hours; Walking: Heavy**

### **Day 6 Free Day with optional tour to Fushimi - Fushimi Inari Shrine; Kyoto - Higashiyama District, Yasaka Shrine, Gion Geisha District**

Today is free for you to explore Kyoto. Breakfast at the ryokan and Sayonara dinner at a local restaurant is included.

**Travel: TBD**

### **Day 7 Return Home**

It's time to say "sayonara" (Goodbye). The group will depart at 8:00 am unless we have determined you need to leave earlier. You will be escorted to the Kyoto train station, where you will return on your own to Tokyo's Narita airport, Tokyo's Haneda airport or Osaka's Kansai airport by train. (If you are flying out of Narita or Haneda Airport, be sure to schedule a flight after 15:00 to allow yourself enough time to catch your flight.) Transportation to Osaka's Kansai Airport is included in the tour package. If you would like to return home from one of the Tokyo airports, please contact us for the details.

**Travel: TBD; Walking: Light**

Walking level descriptions:

Light - 0 to 2 miles on level ground

Medium - 2 to 4 miles on level ground or 0 to 2 miles on hilly ground

Heavy - 4 to 6 miles on level ground or 2 to 4 miles on hilly ground

## Dates & Pricing

Dates	Price (land only) / Single Supplement (All prices are per Person)	Status
Jun 25, 2020 - Jul 1, 2020	\$1,994.00/ \$394.00	Closed
Jul 23, 2020 - Jul 29, 2020	\$1,994.00/ \$394.00	Closed
Aug 27, 2020 - Sep 2, 2020	\$1,994.00/ \$394.00	Available
Sep 24, 2020 - Sep 30, 2020	\$1,994.00/ \$394.00	Available
Oct 22, 2020 - Oct 28, 2020	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Apr 1, 2021 - Apr 7, 2021 Cherry Blossom	\$2,494.00/ \$394.00	Available
May 27, 2021 - Jun 2, 2021	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Jun 24, 2021 - Jun 30, 2021	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Jul 22, 2021 - Jul 28, 2021	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Aug 26, 2021 - Sep 1, 2021	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Sep 23, 2021 - Sep 29, 2021	\$2,244.00/ \$394.00	Available
Oct 21, 2021 - Oct 27, 2021	\$2,494.00/ \$394.00	Available



## Inclusions

- Local, licensed, English-speaking, Japanese guides
- **Travel insurance from Travel Guard**, one of the world's largest travel insurance providers, will be provided to everyone from the United States. All others will receive a \$100 per person credit and will be responsible for obtaining their own travel insurance in their own home country. (The insurance provided by Samurai Tours will cover the land portion only. Insurance to cover airfare and other additional expenses is the tour member's responsibility.)
  - Exact coverage dependent on state
    - For residents of the following states please click here for your available plan. FL, KS, MN, MO, MT, NY, and WA
    - For all other states and the District of Columbia click here
  - **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 same time as your tour deposits. (the surcharge itself is not insured)
    - Up to 69 - \$0
    - 70-74 - \$47
    - 75-79 - \$92
    - 80-84 - \$179
    - 85+ - \$283
  - **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 page for the Cancellation Fees Schedule.
- Reserved-seat Shinkansen Tickets from Tokyo to Kyoto
- Meeting service at Tokyo's Narita Airport or Tokyo's Haneda Airport and transfer to the ryokan in Tokyo
  - The meeting service will meet you at the airport and provide you a transfer to the ryokan in Tokyo
  - Meeting service can only be provided between 6am and 9pm. If you arrive at a time outside of these hours, we will need to provide alternative directions for you to get to the ryokan on your own.
- Sending service to the Kyoto train station.
  - 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.
- Reserved seat tickets on the train to Osaka's Kansai Airport (If you will be returning home from one of the Tokyo airports, please contact us for details about returning to Tokyo.)

*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 6 nights in Japanese-style ryokans or western-style hotels
- Meals
  - Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning (Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
  - Two Japanese-style or Western-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.)

- Admission fees to the destinations and activities (Itinerary specifics subject to change)
- Electronic version of itinerary
- Use of audio tour guide system (must provide own headphones)
- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour
- Baggage transfer from the ryokan in Tokyo to the ryokan in Kyoto (one bag only)

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.
- A printed itinerary is not included
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included

Thank you for downloading this PDF version of our tour. Please visit our website at [www.samuraitours.com/tours](http://www.samuraitours.com/tours) for the most current dates, prices and information.

## **Contact Samurai Tours**

### **WEBSITE/EMAIL**

[www.samuraitours.com](http://www.samuraitours.com)  
[info@samuraitours.com](mailto:info@samuraitours.com)

### **USA CONTACT INFO**

Toll-free: 1-866-316-SAMURAI  
or 1-866-316-7268  
Fax number: 720-210-5423

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

### **JAPAN CONTACT INFO**

Call us: 075-361-7303

### **Samurai Tours**

307 Yodokizu  
Fushimi  
Kyoto 613-0911 Japan

### **Kyoto-fu Chijitoroku**

#### **Ryokogyo 3-576/**

Japanese Travel Agency License:  
Kyoto Prefecture #3-576

### **MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS**

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