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Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage – Part 1



11 Days/10 Nights

Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage – Part

Tour Overview

The Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage - Part 1 tour is perfect for those people searching for an active, off-the-beaten-path, culturally immersive Japanese experience. Pilgrimages have been considered the heart and soul of Japanese spirituality for more than 1,000 years. In addition to authentically participating in the pilgrimage, this is also a great way to see the beautiful, rural island of Shikoku. Shikoku has been blessed with a rich cultural and natural heritage, friendly locals, soothing hot springs, and delicious cuisine.

Destinations

Temples 1 to 36 of the Shikoku Pilgrimage, Osaka, Tokushima, Shishikui Onsen, Kochi

Tour Factors

Cultural Immersion
★★★★★

Pace
★★★☆☆

Physical Activity
★★★★☆

Tour Details

It is not clear how the pilgrimage began, but it is thought that Kobo Daishi established the pilgrimage in the 9th century by either creating or visiting many of the temples on the pilgrimage today. The pilgrimage became popular during the 17th century when the first guidebook was published. It is said that as you follow the pilgrimage route, Kobo Daishi will accompany you and will always be there for comfort and protection.

The objective of the Shikou 88 temple pilgrimage (also called “Henro”) is simple: retrace the footsteps of Kobo Daishi whille traveling the approximately 800 miles (1200 kilometers) and visit all 88 temples. The motives for doing this pilgrimage are varied. Some come for religious reasons, some to pray for healing or safety in the home, or some in memory of those who have passed away. Or some come just to get away from regular life, some for recreation, or some to spend time in reflection and to find oneself.

One of the most charming attributes of the pilgrimage is “o-settai”, or gift-giving. For hundreds of years, locals have supported the pilgrims by giving pilgrims small gifts of food and drinks. This gives you numerous opportunities to meet with the locals one-on-one, making the pilgrimage and this tour a once in a lifetime experience you will treasure forever.

What is the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage Tour?

This tour is not a highlights tour. You will be visiting temples 1 to 36 by chartered taxi/van.

This tour is also a great way to see the beautiful, rural island of Shikoku. We have included a free day in the island’s two major cities of Tokushima and Kochi.

Tour Highlights	✔ Visit 36 Temples ✔ Free Day in Tokushima and Kochi
Tour Inclusions	✔ Travel Guard Gold Policy (for American tour members only) ✔ Meeting service at the arrival airport ✔ Sending service to the appropriate train station ✔ Electronic version of Tour Handbook and Japanese History
Tour Exclusions	✖ Airfare is NOT included. ✖ A printed itinerary is not included ✖ Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and desserts are NOT included

Map



Tour Destinations

Osaka

Tokushima

Shishikui Onsen

Kochi

🚘Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Osaka

You will be staying overnight in the city of Osaka. You will be met at Osaka's Kansai Airport or Osaka's Itami Airport, and escorted to the hotel in Osaka. We will leave a message for you at the hotel informing you of the meeting time for the next day. If you would prefer to arrive in Tokyo, contact us for the details. No meals included.

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

Day 2 Drive to Pilgrim's Good Shop in the Kobe area, Purchase Pilgrimage Items, Drive to Tokushima, Overnight in Tokushima

After breakfast, we will start the day with a Welcome/Orientation meeting. We begin our adventure by driving to Tokushima on the island of Shikoku. On our way to Tokushima, we will stop at a Pilgrims Goods Shop where you can buy all of the items you will need for the pilgrimage. We will provide a recommended checklist of the items you will need to purchase, and will provide assistance with purchasing the items as well. After arriving in Tokushima, we will enjoy a dinner of Tokushima Ramen, a local specialty. Because pork (another local specialty) is so easily obtained, the broth is created from pork giving it a dark brown color. After that, the rest of the day is free to prepare for your adventure which will begin tomorrow. Breakfast at the hotel and dinner at a local restaurant are included.

Driving Time – 3 Hours
Overnight: Tokushima

Day 3 Visit Temples 1 to 7

After breakfast, we will drive to Temple #1. We will discuss all of the normal procedures done at each temple, and it will be up to you to decide what to do at each temple. You will also be given some time to walk around each temple as well. While you are performing your worship rituals at the temples, your tour leader/guide will take your "noukyouchou" (stamp book) to the office and get the temple stamp. We will continue on to Temples #7 sequentially. At the end of the day we will drive back to our hotel in Tokushima. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Driving Time – 1 Hour 45 minutes
Overnight – Tokushima

Temple #1 – Ryozenji (Vulture's Peak Temple)

Ryozenji is a very pleasant temple with a small pond filled with Koi and a statue of Kobo Daishi watching over the pond, a small pagoda and some interesting statuary. Besides being famous as the start of the pilgrimage, the main statue here is famous with high school students for promising academic success at the university level.

Temple #2 – Gorakuji (Pure Land Temple or Paradise Temple)

Kukai visited this temple and carved the temple's main diety – the diety of light. According to legend, long ago it was difficult for fisherman in nearby Naruto Bay to catch fish because of the bright light from the main statue of the temple. To prevent this, the fisherman built a small artificial hill behind the main hall to block the light.

Temple #3 – Kosenji (Golden Well Temple)

The temple was founded by Gyoki in the 8th century, but it was renamed Konsenji (Golden Well Temple) by Kobo Daishi when a golden stream of water sprang out of a well he dug by thrusting his staff into the ground. If you can see your reflection in the golden well next to the Daishi Hall, you will live the age of 92. If not, you will die in 3 years. In the temple yard is a large stone called the Benkei Stone and the tomb of Emperor Chokei, a 14th century emperor of the southern court. Legend states that Benkei (a legendary 12th century warrior priest and bodyguard for Yoritomo Yoshitsune) lifted the stone to demonstrate his strength when he and Yoshitsune stopped here in on their way to a battle at Yashima Plateau near Takamatsu.

Temple #4 – Dainichiji (The Temple of the Great Sun)

The first three temples are surrounded by urban sprawl, but temple #4 is located at the base of the mountains with a green forest behind it. Kobo Daishi founded this temple, and it has been destroyed many times, the last time being in the late 16th century. Since that time, the temple has gone through continuous cycles of disuse and reconstruction.

Temple #5 – Jizoji (The Earthbearer's Temple)

Kobo Daishi founded this temple in 821 on the order of Emperor Saga. What makes this temple different is the long U-shaped building behind the main hall that houses 200 statues of Rakan (enlightened followers of Buddha). Each statue has a different facial expression, and, in keeping with Rakan traditions, are generally humorous. All 200 statues were carved out of wood by two Buddhist monks in the 18th century.

Temple #6 – Anrakuji (The Temple of Everlasting Joy)

The temple was originally founded by Kobo Daishi about 2 km north of its present location. Legend says he struck his staff into the ground creating a hot spring with curative waters. Since then, people have used the hot spring water to cure illnesses.

Temple 7 – Jurakuji (The Temple of Ten Joys)

Kobo Daishi founded the temple in the 9th century. The temple complex was, at one time, very large but many buildings were burned down in a large fire in the 16th century. The present day main hall was rebuilt in the Meiji Period (late 19th century to early 20th century). To the left of the main hall is a Jizo statue which is said to cure eye problems.

Day 4 Temples 8 to 12 by van

Today we will visit temples 7 to 12 by van. Temples 10 and 12 will be our first introduction to mountain temples. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Driving Time – 4 Hours
Overnight – Tokushima

Temple 8 – Kumadaniji (Bear Valley Temple)

Temple 8 is set back in a valley and its main gate is considered to be one of the finest of all the temples on the pilgrimage. It was built in 1688 and it is said a band of robbers were once thought to have lived in its second story. The temple was founded by Kobo Daishi. On at least one occasion the Daimyo of Awa Province (current day Tokushima Prefecture) was known to have visited this temple during the Edo Period for a moon viewing party with his warriors.

Temple 9 – Horinji (The Dharma Wheel Temple)

The temple was founded by Kobo Daishi and its main statue is the only surviving example of a reclining Buddha on the Shikoku pilgrimage. In fact, it is rare in all of Japan. It was carved by Kobo Daishi and survived a 16th century fire that destroyed the temple. The main statue is locally popular for healing and curing illnesses of the feet and the waist.

Temple 10 – Kirihataji (Cut Cloth Temple)

Temple #10 is the first introduction to a mountain temple, however, it is not far from the urban sprawl. Kobo Daishi founded the temple in honor of a girl he met while performing religious activities for seven days at a hut on the mountain. Legend states she supplied all of his needs for the entire seven days. When Kukai asked for some old cloth, the young woman presented him with a brand new kimono. The woman told Kukai she would like to become a saint and help save people. Shortly thereafter she changed into a Senju Kannon. The large tower was moved here from Sumiyoshi Shrine in Osaka in 1873.

Temple 11 – Fujiidera (Wisteria Temple)

Kobo Daishi founded this temple, and carved the main statue which is registered as a National Treasure, the highest ranking of Japanese antiquities. The temple complex has been destroyed by fire numerous times, but the main statue has always escaped damage. Therefore, it is a popular object of worship for those who wish to escape disaster. The temple converted to a Zen temple during the Edo Period, and today is one of only three Zen temples on the pilgrimage. On the hillside directly behind the temple, there are 88 monuments, one for each temple on the Shikoku 88 temple pilgrimage. If you stop in front of each monument, it has the same effect as performing the actual pilgrimage.

Temple 12 – Temple 12 – Shosanji (Burning Mountain Temple)

Located at 800 meters above sea level, Shosanji is the first true mountain temple on the pilgrimage. Kobo Daishi visited this temple to perform ascetic training. However, he found a serpent had set fire to the entire mountain. While chanting sutras and under the protection of a Kokuzo Bosatsu statue, he was able to climb the mountain and confine the dragon in a cave. The cave, which remains today, can be found on the way to the Inner Sanctuary.

Day 5 Free Day in Tokushima

Today is a free day to tour Tokushima or to just rest. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Day 6 Visit Temples 13 to Temple 17

After breakfast, we will take a city bus to Temple 13. From there, we will visit Temples 13 to 17, and then a bus back to Tokushima. After the mountain temples (Temples 10 to 12), Temples 13 to 17 are back in the urban sprawl of Tokushima City, and are all located on the opposite side of the mountains from Temples 1 to 10. Breakfast at the hotel is included.

Travel Time – 1 hour 15 minutes
Overnight – Tokushima

Temple 13 – Dainichiji (The Temple of the Great Sun)

The temple was founded by Kobo Daishi while performing a ceremony here. Until the Meiji period, the temple was associated with the Ichinomiya Shrine, located across the street. The two were officially separated at the beginning of the Meiji Period. The current restoration was built in the later part of the Meiji Period. There are two statues of Dainichi here, one carved by Kobo Daishi and the other carved by Gyoki. The one by Gyoki is housed in the shrine across the street.

Temple 14 – Jorakuji (The Temple of Everlasting Peace)

This temple has one of the most unusual courtyards of the entire pilgrimage. Where most courtyards are beautifully landscaped with gardens and ponds, this temple was built on an uneven rock bed. Miroku Bosatsu (the future Buddha) revealed himself to Kobo Daishi here, so Kobo Daishi carved a 2 foot 6 inch statue of him and founded the temple. This temple features the only statue of the Miroku Bosatsu on the pilgrimage. It is said if a diabetic prays here and drinks the boiled

leaves from the yew tree next to the main hall, they will be cured.

Temple 15 – Kokubunji (The Official State Temple)

The temple was founded by Gyoki and became the official temple of Awa Province (today's Tokushima Prefecture) on the order of Emperor Shomu in 741. The temple was destroyed by fire in the 16th century by Chosokabe and his armies. It was rebuilt in 1742 and converted to Soto Zen Buddhism at that time. There is a paper amulet sold here that you can stick on the walls of your bathroom to ward off termites and other bad luck.

Temple 16 – Kanonji (Avalokitesara Temple)

Some say this temple was first built in 741 by Emperor Shomu to promote Buddhism, and some say Kobo Daishi founded the temple. On the temple grounds there is a picture of a 19th century woman on fire. The legend states the woman, named Shiyo, had beaten her mother-in-law in the past with burning sticks. She burned herself here when trying to dry her hakui (coat) over an open fire. She realized this was Kobo Daishi punishing her for the sins of her youth and she repented her sins. Shiyo, herself, donated the painting to the temple in the hope this would help others from repeating the same mistakes.

Temple 17 – Idoji (Well Temple)

The temple was founded by Emperor Tenmu and got its name from when Kobo Daishi dug a well overnight with just his staff to provide a water source for the local farmers, which is how the temple got its name. It is said that if you can see your face in the water at the bottom of the well you will have a good future. If you can't, you will meet with misfortune within a few years.

Day 7 Temples 18 to 23 by van; Overnight at Shishikui Onsen

Today, we will check out of our Tokushima and leave the urban area of Tokushima and begin our first adventures in rural Shikoku. We will drive about 30 minutes south to the first temple (Temple #18), and then continue visiting temples until Temple #23. After that we will drive to a small onsen on the ocean where we will be staying overnight. Breakfast and dinner at the hotels included.

Walking Distance – N/A
Elevation Gain – N/A
Elevation Loss – N/A
Travel Time – 3 Hours 45 minutes
Overnight – Shishikui Onsen

Temple 18 – Onzanji (The Temple of Gratitude Mountain)

When Gyoki founded this temple in the eighth century, Buddhist law forbid women from entering the temple because the temple was located on a sacred mountain. One hundred years later, Kobo Daishi's mother, Tamayori, came to visit him while he was training here. For seventeen days he performed an esoteric rite at the temple gate. At the end of the seventeen day ritual, the ban against women climbing the mountain was lifted and Kobo Daishi's mother was allowed to enter the temple precincts. Once she entered the temple, she shaved off her hair and became a nun. Because Kobo Daishi took care of his mother after she became a nun, the temple came to be known as Onzanji, a temple of gratitude to one's parents.

Temple 19 – Tatsueji (The Temple of Arising Bay)

Gyoki built the temple on the order of Emperor Shomu in the eighth century. While the temple was being built, a white heron (shirasagi) landed on what is now called Shirasagi Bridge and this was considered to be a very auspicious sign. Legend states that, in the 19th century, a woman named Okyo came to Shikoku with her lover to escape the authorities. They had killed the man she had been a mistress to before she had met the man she was now with. To escape the authorities, they

disguised themselves as henro and were following the other henro around the pilgrimage. When they reached the main hall of Temple 19, as she tried to ring the bell to start her prayers, Okyo's hair suddenly stood on end and got entangled in the bell's rope. After struggling, she got herself free but all of her hair, and part of her scalp, remained entangled in the rope, leaving her with the monastic tonsure. Taking this as a sign from Kobo Daishi, the couple both became devout Buddhists, she becoming a nun and he a monk. She lived the rest of her life in a small chapel owned by the temple and devoted her life to prayers while he became a temple laborer. Okyo's hair and scalp can still be seen at the temple in a little glass-encased shrine just off the walkway.

Temple 20 – Kakurinji (Crane Forest Temple)

When Kobo Daishi visited this temple in 798, he saw two white cranes, one male and one female, protecting a small 2 inch (6 cm) statue of Jizo Bosatsu with their wings. Kobo Daishi then carved a larger (90 cm or 3 feet) statue of Jizo Bosatsu, placed the smaller Jizo statue inside the larger statue and enshrined them as the main statue of the temple. The crane is considered a symbol of longevity and good fortune and its appearance is considered an auspicious sign. Because of the crane sightings, Emperor Kammu gave the temple the title of Imperial Office Temple (Chokugansho). Located at 550 meters altitude (1,800 feet), this temple is unique in Tokushima Prefecture in having escaped the ravages of fire over the years.

Temple 21 – Tairyuji (Great Dragon Temple)

Kobo Daishi performed the Gumonjiho (reciting the Mantra of Kokozo one million times) at the age of 15 on the summit of Mt. Tairyu. He later built this temple on the same location on the order of Emperor Kammu. It took Kobo Daishi fifty days to recite the Mantra of Kokozo on the peak of this mountain. Yet, according to his writings, he was unsuccessful and didn't find the enlightenment that he was desperately searching for. He did, though,receive some spiritual encouragement from his experience and made a vow to go to Cape Muroto to continue his training. The large temple grounds are covered with large cedar trees which create a mystic atmosphere. The temple is located at 620 meters (2,100 feet), and is called the "Western Koyasan" because its buildings were constructed similar to those at Mt. Koya. In 1992, a ropeway was built from the valley floor to the temple.

Temple 22 – Byodoji (The Temple of Equality)

The temple was founded by Kobo Daishi, and the main statue is said to have appeared through a cloud of five colors. The mountain is called Hakusuizan (White Water Mountain) because of the milky-white holy water which sprang up out of a well dug by Kobo Daishi during the temples consecration. The temple is called the Temple of Equality because Yakushi saves all beings from disease, regardless of age, sex, rank, or race. Consecrated water from this temple is supposed to be especially good for diseases of the eyes and is the same water in which Kobo Daishi took a bath.

Temple 23 – Yakukoji (Medicine King Temple)

It is said that this is one of the most popular temples on the pilgrimage, with half a million people visiting it each year. Founded by Gyoki in the 8th century, this temple is known as the temple for protecting yourself from the dangers of misfortunes (Yaku-yoke) due to your age. It is thought that you can turn aside ill fate (yaku) and bring good fortune by, in part, by reciting the Mantra of Yakushi and placing a coin on each of the steps as you walk up the stairs leading to the temple on Yakuyoke hill (42 steps on the men's side and 33 steps on the women's side). The temple is also dedicated to the safety of sailors and the numerous model ships around the temple compound represent ships saved by the power of Yakushi. Yakukoji offers a beautiful view of Hiwasa Bay and Hiwasa Castle from the viewing area around the pagoda. The small islands in the bay make for a great picture.

Day 8 Cape Muroto; Temples 24 to 29 by van; Overnight in Kohchi

After breakfast, we will start the day by driving along the southeastern coastline of Shikoku to

Cape Muroto. We will stop at Mikurodo, a cave where Kobo Daishi reached enlightenment. We will also walk along an easy trail that winds it way along the rocky coastline as well. After that, we will visit Temples 24 to 29 by van. After visiting the temples, we will drive to Kochi where we will be staying for the night. In the evening, we will enjoy a dinner Katsuo Tataki (fresh bonito seared over a rice straw fire), the specialty of Kochi. Breakfast at the hotel and dinner at a local restaurant included.

Walking Distance – 2 kilometers (about 1.25 miles)
Elevation Gain – 100 meters (ab0ut 325 feet)
Elevation Loss – 100 meters (about 325 feet)
Travel Time – 4 Hours 45 Minutes
Overnight – Kochi

Temple 24 – Hotsumisakiji (Cape Temple)

Kobo Daishi was 19 when he came to this area, and found a cave to meditate in at sea level on the East side of the tip of the cape. He moved in and said that he wouldn't leave until he had his goal to reach enlightenment. Three years later, when he was 22 years old, Kobo Daishi achieved enlightenment and dedicated his life to the salvation of all mankind. To commemorate his achievement, he took the name Kukai and built Cape Temple on the top of the hill at the tip of the cape. The marble statues here of Nyoirin Kannon, Gakko, and Yakushi are considered National Treasures. In the temple grounds is a large boulder about 3′ high and 4′ wide with small, palm-sized stones laying in depressions along the top. When you strike the boulder with the smaller stones, you can hear musical tones. Not just the sound of one stone hitting another, but a sound accompanied by a distinct musical tone, with different sized rocks producing different tones.

Temple 25 – Shinshoji (The Temple of the Illuminating Seaport)

The temple was founded by Kobo Daishi in 807. The local fishermen usually call the temple Tsudera, Port Temple, and the main statue is known as Kajitori Jizo, or the Helmsman Jizo. It is said this statue will protect fisherman. Legend says that Lord Yamanouchi of Tosa Castle was saved from shipwreck because of his devotion to Jizo. During a severe storm Jizo took the helm of his floundering ship and steered him to safety. The main hall is located above the rest of the temple, at the top of a long set of stairs.

Temple 26 – Kongochoji (Vajra Peak Temple)

The temple was founded in 807 by Kobo Daishi. When he first arrived here, he found a tengu (flying hermit) who had been living here for 100 years. Kobo Daishi entered into a debate with the Tengu, and after losing, the Tengu was told to leave and was confined to Cape Ashizuri-misaki. Of interest at the temple is a museum which houses a display of whaling tools. The areas was once quite famous as whaling district.

Temple 27 – Konomineji (God Summit Temple)

Gyoki founded this temple in the 8th century. The temple burned down in the beginning of the Meiji Period and the main statue was moved to Temple 26 until 1912. Because there was a law at that time forbidding the construction of new temples, local residents found an unused temple called Jizo-in in Ibaraki Prefecture, dismantled it, and moved it to this location. The main statue was then returned from Temple 26.

Temple 28 – Dainichiji (The Great Sun Temple)

The temple was founded by Gyoki, and Kobo Daishi visited the temple in 806 and carved the main statue. He carved the Yakushi Nyorai (Healing Buddha) from a camphor tree using his fingernails. This deity is called the "Fingernail Yakushi", and many henro (pilgrims) believe that this temple cures illnesses above the neck.

Temple 29 – Kokubunji (The Official State Temple)

This temple was built by Gyoki in 739 on the orders of Emperor Shomu, like all other state temples

in the 8th century. At the time it was built, its official name was Konkumyo Shitenno Gokokuji. The statue of Kobo Daishi is called Hoshiku Daishi because Kobo Daishi performed the Rite of Astral Festivity here when he was 42 years old. Two Yakushi statues and a bell are considered Important Cultural Treasures.

Day 9 Visit Temples 30 to 36 by van

Today we will visit Temples 30 to 36 by van all of which are located in or near the city of Kochi. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Walking Distance – N/A
Elevation Gain – N/A
Elevation Loss – N/A
Travel Time – 3 Hours 30 Minutes
Overnight – Kochi

Temple 30 – Zenrakuji/Anrakuji (The Temple of True Joy/The Temple of Everlasting Joy)

There are two temples that have called themselves Temple 30 in the past, and the complicated feud between them over which temple is the rightful Temple 30 started at the beginning of the Meiji period. The original Temple 30, Zenrakuji, was built on the orders of Emperor Shomu and reestablished by Kobo Daishi. Zenrakuji was built on the grounds of the Shinto Shrine, but the temple was damaged at the beginning of the Meiji period and the name was changed to Anrakuji. In the 1930's, supporters of Zenrakuji transferred a temple from Tokyo, and rebuilt it next door to Anrakuji. Since then, there were several switches back and forth, but in the 1970s, the new Zenrakuji was established as the official Temple 30, and Anrakuji was established as the inner sanctum of Zenrakuji.

Temple 31 – Chikurinji (Bamboo Forest Temple)

Gyoki founded the temple in 724 on the orders of Emperor Shomu. Emperor Shomu commanded Gyoki to find a place similar to the famous Mt. Godai-san in China. Gyoki also carved the main statue and it is considered to be one of the three best statues of Monju Bosatsu in all of Japan. The temple garden and 19 images of Buddhist deities are classified as National Treasures.

Temple 32 – Zenjibuji (The Temple of Ch'an Master's Peak)

The temple is located on a small hill by the seashore and was founded by Kobo Daishi to safeguard ships at sea. The hill is said to be shaped like Mt. Potalaka, the dwelling place of Kannon Bosatsu in southern India and known as the Pure Land of Kannon. Early in the 9th century, Kobo Daishi visited here and carved the main statue. The Kannon Bosatsu statue was called "funadama" Kannon (Spirit of the boat Kannon) and the temple became known as a place to pray for the safety of sailors and fisherman.

Temple 33 – Sekkeiji (Snowy Cliff Temple)

Originally named Kofukuji, this temple was founded by Kobo Daishi as a Shingon temple. It was converted to a Rinzai Zen temple in the mid 16th century by the monk Geppo. Like the vast majority of temples on Shikoku, this temple was burned down during the purge of Buddhism at the beginning of the Meiji Period. The local people built a Shinto shrine on the newly cleared land and when the temple was rebuilt, it was built on land adjacent to the shrine. Today, although it is now a Zen temple, there is a large statue of Kobo Daishi standing in the compound. This temple is one of only three Zen temples on the pilgrimage (the others being #11 and #15).

Temple 34 – Tanemaji (Sowing Seeds Temple)

On his return from China, Kobo Daishi is said to have planted five varieties of seeds (rice, wheat, 2 types of millet and bean) when he founded the temple. The temple is a popular place for pregnant women to pray. Many women pray here for an easy childbirth, and those women who have had

their prayers answered customarily donate water dippers to the temple with their bottoms knocked out. When she first finds that she is pregnant, the women takes a whole ladle to the temple priest. He knocks out the bottom, places it on the altar, and prays over it over the course of two days after which the woman takes it home and places it in the Tokonoma. After a safe delivery, the woman brings the ladle back to the temple in thanks.

Temple 35 – Kiyotaki (Pure Waterfall Temple)

The temple was founded by Gyoki. Gyoki is also credited with carving the main statue which is now considered a National Treasure. A century later Kobo Daishi visited the temple and after seven days of austerities brought forth a clear stream of water from the ground, hence the name of the temple.

Temple 36 – Shoryuji (Green Dragon Temple)

Kobo Daishi built this temple in memory of his Chinese master Keika, the 7th Patriarch of Shingon Buddhism. Before leaving China to return home, Kobo Daishi threw a Vajra (five pronged ritual object) in the direction of Japan and temple legends say that it landed in the branches of a pine tree in the rear of the present temple. Until 1975, worshippers were forced to use a small ferry to reach the temple, but a bridge now takes you directly to the temple.

Day 10 Free Day in Kochi

The entire day is free to enjoy Kochi. You can visit Kochi Castle, one of only 12 remaining original castles in Japan. Breakfast at the hotel included.

Day 11 Sayonara

It is time to day Sayonara. You will travel on your own to Osaka’s Kansai Airport. If you would prefer to return home from Tokyo’s Narita Airport or Tokyo’s Haneda Airport, we can make the arrangements for you. You will need to stay overnight either in Tokyo or next to the airport, and fly home the next day.

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
May 2, 2027 - May 12, 2027	$5,948.25/ $811.64	Available

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Inclusions

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- **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)
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    - 70-74 – $200
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    - 80-84 – $700
    - 85+ – $1125
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- Meeting service at Osaka's Kansai Airport (KIX) or Osaka's Itami Airport (ITM) by a private taxi meeting service and transfer to Osaka hotel
- Optional meeting service at either Tokyo's Narita or Haneda Airport will be an extra $100 fee per group. If you are arriving or departing at Tokyo's Narita or Haneda Airports, there will be an extra $150 fee per person for the train tickets to/from Osaka for either of these airports (the meeting service is required if you want us to purchase the train tickets to Osaka for arrival, if you are arriving at one of the Tokyo Airports, the meeting staff will help you board the train. You will travel on your own to the Shin Osaka station, and will be met there and escorted to the hotel.)
- Sending service to Osaka's Kansai Airport (KIX) or Osaka's Itami Airport (ITM)
- If you will be leaving from Tokyo's Narita Airport or Haneda Airport, there will be an extra $150 fee per person for the train tickets from Osaka to one of these airports.
- For those requiring meeting or sending services on dates other than the scheduled arrival/departure dates, there will be a $100 fee for the meeting service from the airport into Osaka or the sending service to Kansai Airport.

- Lodging for 21 nights in western style hotels or Japanese style ryokans

- Meals
  - Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning (Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
  - No lunches
  - Eight Japanese-style or Western-style dinners at the hotels/ryokans or local restaurants

- 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.)
- Electronic version of itinerary
- Sayonara dinner at the end of the tour

- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Osaka to the hotel in Tokushima (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Tokushima to the ryokan/hotel in Kochi (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the ryokan/hotel in Kochi to the ryokan/hotel in Matsuyama (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the ryokan/hotel in Matsuyama to the hotel in Takamatsu (one bag only)
- Baggage transfer from the hotel in Takamatsu to the hotel in Osaka (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 for the most current dates, prices and information.

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