

SAMURAI TOURS

Adventures in Discovering Traditional Japan

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Best of Tokyo and Beyond



Tour Overview

Experience more of one of world's greatest cities on the Best of Tokyo and Beyond tour. 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.

📍 Destinations

Tokyo, Hakone, Kamakura

Tour Details

From “funky” old Ueno and nearby Yanaka with its fine park, museums, and old houses, to the ultra-modern Ginza with its endless department stores … the sheer energy level of Tokyo will sweep you away. And by night, Tokyo really comes into its own. Mazes of blazing neon fill every available nook and cranny of the city’s streets and alleys. Above all, Tokyo is not just a destination, but an experience.

You will learn the ancient religious traditions of the Japanese, visit the famous “Daibutsu” in

Kamakura, explore Tokyo’s largest Shinto Shrine dedicated to the emperor who began the modernization of Japan and see the icon of Japan, Mt. Fuji (weather-permitting).

Combine this tour with the Best of Kyoto and Beyond tour for a more complete Japanese experience. Or, if you only want to spend a few days in Kyoto either before or after the tour, we can arrange this for you. Contact us for details.

Tour Highlights

- ✔ Akihabara District and Maid Cafe
- ✔ Harajuku District and Takeshita Dori
- ✔ Meiji Shrine and Omotesando
- ✔ Ginza District
- ✔ Asakusa - Sensoji Temple and Asakusa Shrine
- ✔ Hakone - Hakone Ropeway, Owakudani and Lake Ashi Sightseeing Boats
- ✔ Kamakura - Kotokuin (Great Buddha) and Hokokuji (Bamboo Temple) including Tea and Sweets in the Bamboo Garden

Tour Inclusions

- ✔ Travel Guard Gold Policy (for American tour members only)
- ✔ Electronic version of Tour Handbook and Japanese History

Tour Exclusions

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

Map



Tour Destinations

Tokyo
Hakone
Kamakura

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Tokyo

After clearing customs and immigration (which can take up to an hour and a half due to increased tourism to Japan), you will be met at Tokyo's Narita Airport by a Samurai Tours guide. The guide will then purchase a limousine bus ticket for you and help you board the bus to the hotel. No meals are included.

1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 2 Tokyo - Meiji Shrine, Harajuku, Takeshita-Dori, Omotesando, Akihabara District and Maid Cafe

After breakfast, you will start the day with a Welcome/Orientation meeting. We start the day with a visit to the Meiji Shrine, the largest Shinto Shrine in Tokyo. The shrine was completed and dedicated to the Emperor Meiji in 1920, eight years after his death. Emperor Meiji was born in 1852 and ascended to the throne in 1867 when Japan's feudal era came to an end and the emperor was restored to power. During the Meiji Period, Japan modernized and westernized herself to join the world's major powers. Next, we will visit the Harajuku District of Tokyo. Harajuku is the center of Japan's most extreme teenage fashion styles. The focal point of Harajuku is Takeshita Dori, which is lined by many trendy shops, fashion boutiques, used clothes stores and other shops geared towards the fashion and trend-conscious teens. Near Takeshita-dori, but worlds apart, is Omotesando, a broad, tree-lined avenue sometimes referred to as Tokyo's Champs-Elysees. Here you can find famous brand name shops, cafes and restaurants. We will finish the day with a visit to Akihabara. In the past, Akihabara was famous for its numerous, large electronics shops. Today, Akihabara has gained recognition as the center of Japan's otaku (geek or nerd) culture, and many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are now mixed among the electronic stores in the district. For those who are interested, we can finish the visit to Akihabara with a visit to a Maid Café where the waitresses are dressed like a maid or an anime character. (The seating charge and drink or food orders are not included.) Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant are included.

Travel: 1 Hour; Walking: Heavy

Day 3 Tokyo - Ueno Park, Yanaka District, Rikiguen Garden

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

Travel: 1 Hour; Walking: Heavy

Day 4 Travel to Kamakura; Kamakura - Hase-dera, Kotokuin (Great Buddha),

Hokokuji (Bamboo Temple),

We board a subway and an express train to the ancient city of Kamakura, the former capital of Japan in the 13th century. We will start at Hase-dera. This temple, originally established in the 8th century houses a famous Kannon statue made from wood and gold leaf, and also has a commanding view of the nearby ocean. Next we will visit Kotokuin, the home of the famous Kamakura Great Buddha. This 40-foot tall bronze statue of Buddha, built in the 13th century is an icon of Japan. After a relaxing lunch, we continue by taxi to Hokokuin Temple, also known as the Bamboo Temple. Here you will be able to relax and enjoy the serene atmosphere of the bamboo garden while savoring tea and sweets.

Travel: 3 Hours; Walking: Medium

Day 5 Free Day in Tokyo

Today is a free day to enjoy the world-class city of Tokyo. 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.

Day 6 Tokyo - Tokyo Sky Tree, Ginza District, Asakusa

After breakfast, you will be escorted to the Tokyo Skytree for a birds-eye view of Tokyo. Next we will travel to the nearby 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. Senso-ji Temple is the busiest temple in Tokyo, and it’s history dates back to the 7th century. Afterward, 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. 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. Breakfast at the ryokan and lunch at a local restaurant included.

Travel: 1 3/4 Hours; Walking: Heavy

Day 7 Travel to Hakone; Hakone - Hakone Ropeway, Lake Ashi Sightseeing Boats; Return to Tokyo

After breakfast we will take a day trip 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. After arriving back in Tokyo, we will enjoy a Sayonara dinner. Breakfast at the ryokan, lunch and dinner at a local Japanese restaurant are included.

Travel: 6 Hours; Walking: Light

Day 8 Sayonara

It’s time to say “sayonara” (goodbye). You will be escorted to the train station where you will take the express train to Tokyo’s Narita Airport on your own. Breakfast at the ryokan is included.

Travel: 1 1/2 Hours; Walking: Light

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

Add-On Tours

Our tours and tour itineraries are the best, but as the saying goes, “you can’t make everyone happy all of the time”. There may a specific destination or a specific experience you may want to include in your visit to Japan that may not be included your tour. Choose from our Add On tours to include your interests and make your Japan tour even better.

Click HERE **to view all of the Add-On Tours.**

Or, use the arrows to scroll though the recommended list of Add-On Tours for this tour.
















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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.

- 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 Tokyo train station and transfer to Tokyo's Narita Airport or Tokyo's Haneda Airport
    - The sending service will escort you to the Tokyo train station and make sure you board the correct train. The sending service will not accompany you to the airport.

For those requiring meeting or sending services on other than the scheduled arrival/departure dates, there will be a $100 fee for the meeting service from the airport into Tokyo or the sending service to the Tokyo train station.

- Lodging for 7 nights in a Japanese-style ryokan or western-style hotel

- Meals
    - Japanese-style or Western-style breakfast every morning. (Please Note: Some ryokans offer Japanese breakfasts only.)
    - Five Japanese-style lunches
    - One Japanese-style dinner

- All transportation costs when traveling with the group. (Transportation costs during scheduled free times are the tour member's responsibility)
- Electronic version of itinerary

- Admission fees to the destinations and activities listed in the Tour Highlights column on the right, during non-free times. (Itinerary specifics subject to change.)

Each tour member receives an electronic 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
- A printed itinerary is 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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