

Cultural Visit to Japan during Cherry Blossom Time



This 10 day Cultural Tour of Japan coincides with the Cherry Blossom Festival at the end of March. A Home Stay at Hattoris' 100 year old traditional home introduces you to Japanese culture: Tea pouring ceremony, Origami, Ikebana, Sukiaki and Soba making. On the bullet train follow the blossoms to Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Kyoto and Tokyo with visits to Shinto Shrines and Buddhist Temples. Ride a bike through the Green Tea Fields, take the "Romantic Train" to Sagano and delight in a Ricksha ride through the Bamboo Forest. Geishas – Kimonos – Saki – Sushi – all uniquely Japanese!

Cherriful Japan

March 24-April 3, 2019

10 days in Japan

**\$4650 CDN - Land Package
based on 8 pax in double occ.**

No Taxes!



**Non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due at time of booking.
Final balance is due on Feb. 24, 2019.**

Not included in this tour: International flight to Osaka and return from Tokyo; Meals not mentioned in itinerary; travel and medical insurance; personal expenses

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

LODGING with breakfast

- 4 nights in Kyoto
- 2 nights in Miyajima
- 2 nights Home Stay – Hattoris
- 2 nights Tokyo

MEALS

- 10 Breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 4 dinners

TRANSPORT

- 4 day ER Train pass - West
- 1 week ER Train pass – Bullet Train
- Metro and bus tickets - taxi transfers
- Rikisha Ride in the Bamboo Forest
- Electric bicycles on Tea Farm
- Gondola on Miyajima Island

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Buddah Temples & Shinto Shrines
- Flea Market – Kyoto
- Tea Farm
- Gion – Cultural Show
- Sagano Romantic Train
- Hiroshima Peace Garden & Museum
- Tea Ceremony, Flower arranging, Origami, Caligraphy, Soba (pasta)
- Tokyo Sky bus Tour – 50 min
- Tokyo Asakusa District

Contact Corinne:

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Itinerary: Cherriful Japan

Saturday, March 23 – In Transit – International Flight to Tokyo.

Sunday, March 24 KYOTO Arrive in Tokyo and continue your flight to KIX (Osaka) for a 15:19 arrival. Meet Corinne and our Japanese/Canadian guide Mieko. From a 4 day ER pass with facilitate the transfer to Kyoto. The Daiwa Royal Hotel is near the train station so a brief walking tour will get you orientated. Early dinner before calling it a night!

Monday, March 25 KYOTO (B) Discover Kyoto Japan's former capital and emperor's residence from 794 to 1868. Take a local bus to the Kiyomizu Temple for an introduction to Buddhism. Gion is known as Kyoto's most famous geisha district. Gion is at its most atmospheric in the early evening, when the lanterns are lit and apprentice geisha will flit about the back streets on their way to their appointments. The Japanese culture is featured at the Gion Center cultural show highlighted with Geisha performances through music. Catch dinner after the show in one of the old tea houses before sauntering back to the hotel through the Nishiki market.

Tuesday, March 26- KYOTO (B) Morning excursion on the Sagano Romantic Train to the is forested area 7 km north of Kyoto. More shrines and temples and walks in the forest await you as well as a ricksha ride through the Bamboo Forest. Option to return on the River Boat excursion – 16 km and 1.5 hours. <https://www.hozugawakudari.jp/en> \$50 CDN. Evening free around the ultra-modern train station with many restaurant options.

Wednesday, March 27 – KYOTO (B) Board the local train for Nara, at one time the capital city of Japan. Wade past the local deer (symbolic to this city) to the Temple of Todaiji with its Giant Buddha! He is surely to smile down on you! Take the train back to the Tea district of Wazuka to catch a light lunch in their hill top café. Ride through the green tea fields on an electric bike and enjoy a guided visit of the facility. Return to Kyoto for the night.

Thursday, March 28 – HIROSHIMA/MIYAJIMA ISLAND (B,D)- The bullet train will whisk you off to Hiroshima for a quick lunch of Okonomiyaki (like an omelette with cabbage) in one of the traditional restaurants. Visit the gardens and the Peace Memorial museum. Take the tram to the port to board the ferry to Miyajima Island (15 min. ride) where you will catch site of the famous Itsukushima Shrine! Walk past the shrine to The Lodge Hotel to leave your luggage before setting off on a walking tour of the village and a chance to catch a flight of local beer. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Friday, March 29- MIYAJIMA ISLAND(B,D) – Morning visit to this incredible Shrine which is often surrounded by tide waters. You have the whole day to enjoy some hiking excursions. Take the gondola up to the vista on Mt Misen for some great photo ops. www.2aussietravellers.com/mt-misen-miyajima Return to the Lodge for evening meal.

Saturday, March 30- YOKKACHI – HATTORI'S HOME STAY (B,L,D) – Return north on the bullet train to the city of Yokkachi. Taxi to the 100 year old family home of the Hattori family for lunch! Hiroko and Takahisa will introduce you to Japanese culture for the next two days, including Ikebana (flower arranging), soba making, tea ceremony, calligraphy and origami.

Sunday, March 31– YOKKACHI – HATTORI'S HOME STAY (B,L,D) This will be a relaxing day with a continuation of cultural activities, catch up on some washing and quiet time. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner with the Hattoris.

Monday, April 1- TOKYO (B) Leave on the regional, then bullet train to Tokyo, the capital of Japan. Catch for a glimpse of Mt Fuji which is often seen in March-April. Check into our Hotel in the Ginza area of Tokyo. Mieko will guide us on a walking tour of this animated district of Tokyo! Dinner in this district.

Tuesday, April 2 – TOKYO(B) Today you will visit the Asakusa district of Tokyo with its shopping street leading up to the Shrine. Take the river cruise to the Sumida park where you can enjoy the cherry blossoms for the last time before leaving Cherriful Japan.

Wednesday, April 3– IN TRANSIT Transfer to the train station this morning to leave your bags in the Coin lockers before enjoying a Skybus city tour in downtown Tokyo. Enjoy lunch close to the Central station before taking the Narita express train to the airport for your flight back to Canada.