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# Japan's Golden Route

***A Quintessential Active Adventure to Experience Japan's Beauty & Culture***



***Kiyomizu-dera Temple in autumn***

| 2026 DATES | Double   | Single   |
|------------|----------|----------|
| October 13 | \$13,495 | \$17,395 |
| 2027 DATES | Double   | Single   |
| May 12     | \$13,995 | \$17,795 |
| October    | TBA      | TBA      |

*Within 70 days of departure, prices are subject to availability. Land-only pricing is available. (See [Terms & Conditions - Prices](#))*

| TOUR DETAILS  |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Duration      | 16 Days                  |
| Fitness Scale | <a href="#">Level A2</a> |
| Group Size    | Max 16                   |
| Flights       | INCLUDED                 |

**Haven't heard of our Connections Program?  
Find out more [here](#).**

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**PRINT INFO**

This is the best of Japan! In Tokyo, experience the interesting juxtaposition of imperial heritage with the modern, metropolis. Hike Mount Takao, and walk the ancient

Nakasendo trail. Marvel at the majestic Mount Fuji, visit historic Hiroshima, and experience Kyoto's ancient temples and traditions. Japanese cultural experiences abound. Savour the culinary experiences in tea houses and street markets, embrace the serenity found in the shrines and temple gardens, appreciate the variety of architecture both ancient and contemporary, witness the efficiency and safety of the train system, and enjoy shopping in both vibrant urban districts and quaint post towns. Woven into this adventure are walking tours and hiking tours that showcase the city highlights and the country's natural beauty. This active journey exploring the Golden Route will provide an immersive introduction to Japan's history, culture, and traditions, and is sure to provide many lasting memories.

## What's Included



- Roundtrip air from Toronto, ON to Tokyo, Japan
- Connections Program
- Airport transfers
- local transportation
- 14 nights of accommodation (plus 1 on the plane)
- 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners (plus food service on the plane)
- Local professional guides & all other entry fees and passes
- Services of a DeNure Tours Tour Director

*Prices are in Canadian dollars, are per person, and include HST.*

### INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

#### TOKYO

- City tour: Imperial Palace Plaza, Nijubashi Bridge, Imperial Palace East Gardens, Shibuya Crossing
- Koishikawa Korakuen Garden
- Skytree Tower
- Japanese Calligraphy experience
- Mount Takao

#### MOUNT FUJI

- Onsen (hot springs) Bath
- Oschino Hakkai springs
- Lake Kawaguchiko: Arakura Fuji Sengen Shrine, Chureito Pagoda, Oishi Park

#### NAGOYA

- Nakasendo Trail

## HIROSHIMA

- Peace Pagod & Mitaki Temple
- Itsukushima Shrine
- Mount Misen & Shishi-iwa Observatory

## OSAKA

- Osaka Walking tour

## KYOTO

- Nara –historic monuments, temples, and shrines
- Arashiyama Bamboo Grove and Tenryu Ji
- Sagano Romantic Train
- Samurai & Ninja Museum
- Kinkaku-ji and Kiyomizu-dera Temple
- Kimono Tea Ceremony

## Why This Tour is Great



### A Comprehensive “BEST OF” Tour

Japan’s Golden Route is known to cover Japan’s most popular cities: Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Nagoya, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. In-depth visits to cosmopolitan cities are combined with nature, and highlights include sites related to ancient heritage and traditions as well as modern Japanese culture.

### Iconic Trails, Unforgettable Views

During this adventure, hike some of Japan’s most historic routes, such as the ancient Nakasendo Trail, and be rewarded with stunning panoramic views, such as the view of Mount Fuji from the Arakura hillside.

### Active Experiences

Enjoy a diversity of walking and hiking experiences. Walk through bustling markets and serene shrine gardens, and follow an ancient trading route that includes stone-paved streets and quiet paths and trails through lush forest. Hike easy and moderate forest trails that include stone paths and stairs to access summits with breathtaking views and unique ancient temples.

## Immersive Cultural and Culinary Experiences

This tour is full of hands-on fun. You'll try your hand at calligraphy, enjoy a traditional kimono tea ceremony ... even learning about the foods and flavours of Japan is woven into this adventure.

### Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

1. "Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara"
2. Tenryu-ji, a major Zen temple complex
3. Itsukushima Shrine, with its famous iconic "floating" torii gate
4. Kiyomizu-dera Temple, celebrated for its grand wooden terrace overlooking the city of Kyoto.



**Tsumago-juku, a historic post town along the Nakasendo Trail**

**Kimono tea ceremony**

**Kiyomizu-dera Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**

## Day-to-Day Itinerary



### Day 1: Fly to Japan

This is a big travelling day. Enjoy your overnight flight from Toronto to Tokyo. Remember that in crossing the International Date Line, you will lose one day.

**Stay:** N/A (in flight)

**Meals:** (on plane)

### Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo – Free Time to Relax

Welcome to Tokyo! Upon exiting customs and collecting your baggage, a welcoming airport assistant will greet you with a warm smile, assistant with luggage, and will

ensure your comfortable transfer to the hotel. Following check-in, the remainder of the day is yours to relax and settle in after your journey.

**Stay:** 4-Star or similar category (4 nights)

**Meals:** (on plane)

### **Day 3: Tokyo – A City of Vibrant Diversity**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will have a full day, proper introduction to the diversity of Tokyo. Travelling by public transit, visit the Imperial Palace Plaza, and see the iconic Nijubashi Bridge, followed by the Imperial Palace East Gardens. In time for lunch, you'll be exploring the historic Tsukiji Outer Market, and you'll be able to enjoy local delicacies at the nearby restaurants. In the afternoon, the diversity of Tokyo will be more fully experienced, from the traditional Japanese culture at the Meiji-Jingu Shrine, to the sophisticated and contemporary sights along Omotesando avenue, and the youthful energy in the Harajuku district. Witness the organized chaos of the Shibuya Crossing, the world's busiest pedestrian intersection. Your welcome dinner will bring to a close a perfect start to your Tokyo adventure.

**Meals:** B, D

### **Day 4: Tokyo – Culture & Traditions**

Begin the day with breakfast at your hotel before setting out to explore more of Tokyo's culture and traditions. Stroll in the Koishikawa Korakuen Garden, where you will see the contrast of skyscrapers and bonsai trees. Visit Asakusa, home to the historic Senso-ji Temple. Wander through Nakamise Shopping Street, where traditional souvenirs and street food provide a taste of old Tokyo. Afterward, enjoy a Japanese Calligraphy experience, where you can try your hand at writing characters with a brush and ink, creating a memorable keepsake from your adventure. A visit to the iconic Skytree Tower provides an unparalleled, panoramic, bird's-eye view of the sprawling Tokyo cityscape. Then the exploring continues in the dynamic Shinjuku district, Tokyo's renowned nightlife center. Stroll through Omoide Yokocho where you'll find cozy yakitori stalls offering an authentic taste of Tokyo's casual dining culture. You may even explore Kabukicho and the enchanting labyrinth of Golden Gai, where intimate bars and boutique clubs peek from behind lantern-lit alleyways, and the city reveals its playful, mysterious side.

**Meals:** B

### **Day 5: Mount Takao and Yakuo-in Temple (Hikes #1 & #2)**

After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a unique urban nature experience. Mount Takao is a mountain retreat/ recreation area in western Tokyo. Upon arrival, grab some snacks and drinks at a café or shop near the station. Be sure to use the restroom and check your outfit before we head out. The morning hike features a

moderate ascent through lush forest. At the summit, enjoy the views and a break for lunch. After lunch, visit the historic Yakuo-in Temple with its impressive tengu statues and the famous “Octopus Cedar” tree. The hike to descend is along a well-paved and easy-to-walk path. Stop at traditional teahouses along the way to try local sweets. After returning to the Takaosanguchi Station, there will be time to browse the souvenir shops for local wagashi (Japanese sweets) and other limited-edition items before the trip back. Dinner at a local restaurant will provide an opportunity to share your favourite experiences, thus far.

**Meals:** B, D

### **Day 6: Free Time, Travel to Mount Fuji Area**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and use the morning to relax or explore the city at your own pace. After checking out, travel by private coach to the Mt. Fuji area, and check in to the hotel. An onsen hotel is a traditional-style inn built around a natural, geothermal hot spring, and you will have the rest of the day to explore the surrounding area or relax and experience the healing and mind cleansing benefits of the onsen bath.

**Stay:** Onsen Hotel, Mt. Fuji (2 nights)

**Meals:** B, D

### **Day 7: Mount Fuji**

Following breakfast at the hotel, a full-day tour of the area will commence. Stroll through the enchanting springs of Oshino Hakkai, a serene collection of eight spring-fed ponds in Oshino Village, designated as a National Natural Monument. Next, head to Lake Kawaguchiko, one of the Fuji Five Lakes, and this one boasts the longest shoreline and is renowned for its numerous scenic viewpoints. Delight in panoramic views of Mount Fuji reflected on the tranquil waters and the serene beauty of the surrounding landscape. To visit Arakura Fuji Sengen Shrine, located on the hillside of Mt. Arakura, it takes about 5 minutes to walk from Shimoyoshida Station, and then about 30 minutes to climb the stone steps to reach the Chureito Pagoda. The combination of Mt. Fuji and the red pagoda is popular among tourists for its picturesque beauty. You can enjoy ukiyo-e-like scenes with different views in each season. During the cherry blossom season, the pink flowers create a magical atmosphere, and fall provides beautiful, striking fall colours. Continue to Oishi Park on the northern shore of Lake Kawaguchi with one of the best views of Mt. Fuji. The view is also known for its fields of nemophila (light blue wild flowers) in May, lavender from late June to mid-July, and crimson kochia in the fall. The beautiful collaboration of the lake, Mt. Fuji, and flowers make it a popular photo spot. Return to the hotel, and the rest of the day is yours to relax.

**Meal:** B, D

## **Day 8: Bullet Train to Nagoya**

Pack your overnight bag for your two nights at Nagoya, and prepare your big luggage to be transferred to Hiroshima. After breakfast, transfer to the Odawara train station for the scenic journey by bullet train to Nagoya, then be escorted to the hotel to check in. The remainder of the day is yours to relax or explore.

**Stay:** Nagoya hotel, 4-star (2 nights)

**Meals:** B, L

## **Day 9: Nakasendo Trail (Hike #3)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and be prepared for a full day along the historic Nakasendo Trail. You'll be taking public transit to the beautifully preserved post town of Magome-juku, a vital stop for travellers in the past, and our trekking start point. As you stroll, enjoy breathtaking views of the Kiso Valley and the surrounding mountains, while your guide shares the town's rich history and its role in Japan's feudal travel network. Don't miss the chance to sample local delicacies, such as gohei mochi (grilled rice cakes) and kurikomameshi, a chestnut rice dish which have nourished travelers for centuries. Sights along the trail include the Ichiroku Toge Tateba Teahouse, the Otoko-daki and Onna-daki Waterfalls, twin cascades whose contrasting flows symbolize harmony and balance in nature, and Tsumago-juku, another beautifully preserved post town. After a day of history, culture, and scenic hiking, your evening is free to relax.

**Meals:** B, L

## **Day 10: Travel to Hiroshima, Peace Pagoda & Mitaki Temple (Hike #4 & #5)**

After breakfast, we'll check out and head to the station to board the train for Hiroshima. Relax on the comfortable train as the Japanese landscape gradually unfolds outside your window, and enjoy a leisurely rail journey. Upon arrival at Hiroshima Station, meet the local guide and transfer to your hotel. Take some time to refresh and prepare for the afternoon, a hiking tour that highlights Hiroshima's natural beauty and historic sites. The trail up to the Peace Pagoda rewards with great views over the city of water and out over the Inland Sea. Then hike to the Mitaki Temple and explore the temple grounds. On your return to the hotel, the remainder of the day is free time to spend as you wish.

**Stay:** Hiroshima hotel, 4-star (2 nights)

**Meals:** B

## **Day 11: Tour of Miyajima Island, Mount Misen and Shishi-iwa Observatory (Hike #6 )**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, and prepare for a day of exploring the enchanting island of Miyajima. Begin with Itsukushima Shrine, where the iconic vermilion torii gate appears to float on the sea, and the majestic main hall exudes a

sense of timeless serenity. Continue your walk to the Five-Story Pagoda and Toyokuni Shrine, admiring the harmony of architectural beauty and natural surroundings. Stroll through the charming Omote-sando Shopping Street, where traditional crafts and local delicacies offer the perfect opportunity for leisurely shopping and tasting regional specialties. In the afternoon, hike up Mt. Misen, the island's symbolic mountain. The Shishiiwa Observatory offers an unrivaled panoramic view of the stunning Seto Inland Sea and its surrounding islands. Upon returning to the hotel, enjoy some free time to relax and explore on your own pace and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

**Meals:** B, L

### **Day 12: Travel to Osaka, Osaka Walking Tour (Hike #7)**

After breakfast, board a private bus for the journey to Osaka. Upon arrival, a walking tour will introduce you to the culture of Osaka with the immersive culinary experience at the Kuromon Market, and enjoy the vibrant urban energy of the premier shopping and entertainment districts Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori. Check into the hotel and the remainder of the day is yours to go exploring, or simply relax.

**Stay:** Kyoto hotel, 4-star (4 nights)

**Meals:** B

### **Day 13: Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara**

After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, take the train to Nara, place recognized as a World Heritage site for its historic temples and shrines. At Todai-ji Temple, marvel at the grandeur of the colossal Great Buddha, at Kasuga Taisha Shrine, stroll among the beautiful vermilion-colored buildings and enjoy the serene atmosphere. Take a walk through Nara Park, where friendly deer roam freely and offer a unique opportunity to interact with the local wildlife. Kofuku-ji Temple showcases the development of Japanese Buddhist culture and architectural techniques, and Tōshōdai-ji Temple, founded in 759, it is a key temple in the history of Japanese Buddhism. The included lunch provides a taste of regional specialties. Following the lunch, visit Horyuji Temple, founded in 607 by Prince Shotoku, and is one of the country's oldest temples. After returning to your hotel in Kyoto, the remainder of the day is free for you to spend as you wish.

**Meals:** B, L

### **Day 14: Kyoto - Arashiyama and the Samurai Ninja Museum**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then today's adventure features Kyoto's natural and cultural beauty. In the Arashiyama district, experience the walkway through the Bamboo Grove. Nearby, UNESCO World Heritage site Tenryu Ji is an impressive complex of Zen temples. Walk to the Togetsukyo Bridge, a 155-meter bridge built across the Katsura River, which flows leisurely through Saga Arashiyama. Experience

the Sagano Romantic Train, a charming Art Deco-style train that travels along the Hozugawa River, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and riverside scenery. Return to Kyoto and visit the Samurai Museum with its impressive collection of authentic Samurai armors, including rare pieces from the Edo period, over 300 years old. The expert staff carefully maintain, demonstrate, and showcase the Samurai armor.

**Meals:** B, L

### **Day 15: Kyoto - Temples & Tea Ceremony**

Following a delightful breakfast at the hotel, your journey's highlights begin at Kinkaku-ji, The Golden Pavilion, one of Japan's most iconic landmarks. Surrounded by tranquil gardens and a reflective pond, this magnificent temple embodies the spirit of Zen and serenity. Visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its grand wooden terrace overlooking the city. From this vantage point, enjoy sweeping views of Kyoto and feel the timeless grace of Japan's ancient capital. Visit the world-renowned Fushimi Inari Taisha, famous for its thousands of vermilion gates that weave through the sacred Mount Inari. Wander along the mystical pathways and experience the harmony between nature and spirituality that defines this revered Shinto site. Conclude your day with a Kimono Tea Ceremony experience. A skilled tea master will guide you through the foundations of Zen philosophy that have shaped the Japanese art of tea: Wa, Kei, Sei, and Jaku, which represent harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. As you savor each movement and gesture, you will come to appreciate the profound mindfulness and aesthetic grace at the heart of this centuries-old tradition. To provide a grand finale, following the tea ceremony, gather with the group for a joyful farewell meal.

**Meals:** B, D

### **Day 16: Fly Home**

After breakfast, enjoy some final moments of free time before checking out and heading to the airport for the journey home with unforgettable memories of your experiences while following Japan's Golden Route.

**Meals:** B

## **Hiking Details**



### **DAY 5**

#### **1. Mount Takao Ascent - Scenic Trail No. 6**

(A2/Moderate ) 3.7 km, 391m elevation gain, duration: about 1h30

This trail follows a quiet stream through lush forest. Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere

and a refreshing forest walk.

## **2. Mount Takao Descent- Scenic Trail No. 1 (Omotesando)**

(A1+/Easy) 3.8 km,

This is a well-paved and easy-to-walk path. Stop at traditional teahouses along the way to try local sweets.

## **DAY 9**

### **3. Nakasendo Trail**

(A2/Moderate) Approximately 9 km

Start at Magome-juku, a beautifully preserved post town that once served as a vital stop for travelers, merchants, and samurai journeying between Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto during the Edo period. Along the trail, there'll be moments of feeling like you're stepping back into history with stone-paved streets lined with traditional wooden buildings, tea houses, and charming souvenir shops. As you stroll, enjoy breathtaking views of the Kiso Valley and the surrounding mountains. Continue along the trail to the Otoko-daki and Onna-daki Waterfalls, twin cascades whose contrasting flows symbolize harmony and balance in nature. Reach Tsumago-juku, one of the best-preserved post towns on the trail.

## **DAY 10**

### **4. Hike to Peace Pagoda**

(A2/Moderate) 2km, duration: 0h40-1h00

The trail takes you through a primordial forest, a tunnel of torii gates, and rewards you with great views over the city of water and out over the Inland Sea.

### **5. Hike to Mitaki Temple - Course B**

(A1+/Moderate) 1.1 km, 356m elevation gain, duration: 0h20 along a fairly steep road

The trail starts from just inside the temple gate, with a fairly steep climb to the summit with rewarding views. The trail then takes you along the ridge and drops you at the top end of the temple complex after a bewitching descent through a beautiful bamboo forest.

## **DAY 11**

### **6. Hike up Mount Misen**

(A1+ and H2/Moderate Options) all options take about 2h00 to ascend:

1. **Momijidani Course**, the shortest but steepest route through the forest
2. **Daisho-in Course** offers stunning views and is comparatively easier
3. **Omoto Course** is a longer but gentler path

Along the trails, you may encounter deer, and though rare, perhaps wild monkeys.

## DAY 12

### 7. Osaka Walking Tour

(A1/Easy) duration is approximately 4h00

### Important Info for this Tour



Although this tour includes round trip flights from Toronto to Tokyo, guests can join this tour from anywhere in the world! Please contact us to discuss your airfare and pre-and post-tour accommodation options.

- Pre-departure, setting up a personal WhatsApp account and becoming familiar with its use will be helpful for communicating with the group while travelling, as well as for staying in touch with friends and family at home.
- installing an e-SIM on your smart phone for internet service while in Japan is suggested, and setting this up a day or two before departing is recommended.
- Luggage Permitted: 1 checked item, maximum weight 20 kg. and maximum length 160 cm. plus 1 handbag/personal item. Although airlines may have more generous limits for the checked bag, this weight and size constraint is for ground transportation during the trip.
- Proper hiking shoes/boots as well as comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Additional packing suggestions will be provided a few weeks prior to departure.

[BOOK NOW](#)[PRINT INFO](#)

**Have questions? We're here to help! Call or email us today.**

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