

An Extraordinary Opportunity to Experience Japan in a Historic, Artful and Relaxing Way

Kyoto/Nara (4 days/3 nights)



Day 1: Kyoto

Upon arrival at Osaka's Kansai International Airport, you will be met by your personal concierge and taken by private sedan with driver to your luxury accommodations in Kyoto. All hotel rooms for the duration of your stay in Japan will be suite type accommodations (subject to availability). All transportation will be by chauffeured, luxury sedan unless otherwise noted. Your personal concierge will be your "go to" person for restaurant suggestions and reservations, shopping suggestions, etc. and will remain with you for the duration of your stay in Japan.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency Kyoto

This evening we begin our culinary journey through Japan, which will be one of the highlights of your trip. Not to be outdone by Tokyo, Kyoto offers some of the finest cuisine in Japan. Food in the Kansai region where Kyoto is located is often deemed to be more 'delicate' in flavor than in Tokyo. Based on years of our personal travels to Kyoto, we will take you to wonderful, tucked away Japanese and international restaurants where you can taste the finest cuisine that Kyoto has to offer.

Day 2: Kyoto

This morning you will be met at the hotel by your personal concierge who will introduce your JapanQuest Journeys guide for today and will review with you the itinerary for the duration of your stay in Japan. Today, we recommend that you explore Japan's cultural heritage. If you have never been to Kyoto, there are several "must-sees" including **Kinkakuji** – The Temple of the Golden Pavilion, **Ryoanji** – A beautiful and tranquil 15th century rock garden and **Sanjusangendo** – A 12th century temple replete with 1001 identical gilded statues of Kannon, **Kiyomizudera** – A magnificent seven pavilion temple built on different levels of the Higashiyama hillside, and **Nijo Castle** – Constructed in 1603 and which contains a beautiful display of Kano school artwork.

If you have been to Kyoto, we will take you to our favorite, off-the-beaten-path locales that shine in their tranquility and the beauty of the season such as Honen-in located near the Philosopher's Path. Today, you may also choose to participate in a private Zen meditation session with a Buddhist monk while contemplating a beautiful and tranquil Zen Garden.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 3: Kyoto

This morning, depart by car for a one-hour drive to the I.M. Pei designed Miho Museum *where you will be escorted by a Miho Museum curator on a private tour of the museum's exquisite collection of Near Eastern and Japanese art.* Following a light lunch at the Miho Museum, return to Kyoto where you will continue to explore the city's ancient temples and shrines. Among our favorites is the Katsura Imperial Villa, a masterpiece of traditional Japanese architecture built between 1620 and 1645.

We recommend that you spend this evening in a "ryokan" or Japanese inn. A stay at a "ryokan" can best be described as a quintessential cultural experience of remarkable serenity. Relax in the confines of a beautiful tatami room and its accoutrements, look out at an exquisite private garden while sipping some delicious green tea, enjoy an enticingly warm "ofuro" bath and return to your room for a delicious "kaiseki" traditional Japanese meal. We will arrange for you to dine this evening at your inn in the company of Geisha, Japan's consummate

artists.

Hotel: Hiiragiya Ryokan or Tawaraya Ryokan (subject to availability)

Day 4: Nara and Return Trip Home



This morning, you will venture today by car on a 60-minute journey to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital established in 710. Your sojourn will include Nara Park, the heart of Nara, where deer, considered to be messengers of the Shinto gods roam free as they have done since ancient times. Nara is easily traversed by foot and most of the day here will be spent walking. After visiting Todai-ji Temple, which contains the nearly 50 foot tall great Buddha completed in 752, you will visit Kasuga Taisha, an 8th century Shinto shrine and Kofuku-ji, which houses the subliminal 8th century statue of Ashura, the guardian of the Law and a National Treasure.

Following your day in Nara, you will be driven to Osaka's Kansai International Airport where you will depart on your homeward bound flight this evening.

About Us

JapanQuest Journeys is a boutique firm specializing in bespoke "tailor-made" luxury journeys to Japan with an unparalleled and undiluted **single-country focus**. We deliver a wealth of unique Japanese expertise based upon decades of first-hand experiences and an intimate understanding of the cultural, historic and modern landscape. Our in-country presence ensures that our direct knowledge and experiences are continually renewed in this rapidly

changing country. **We will share extraordinary experiences and insider access---making available the "real" Japan through an extensive network of locally cultivated relationships. Your journey will be tailored specifically for you and could include other venues such as skiing in Hokkaido or a visit to Tokyo with its vibrancy and international flair.**



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