

QUILT FESTIVAL TOUR

10 Days

Tokyo ▶ Yamanashi ▶ Nagoya ▶ Kyoto

Tour Overview

Tour Japan one stitch at a time with this incredible fully escorted Japan Quilt Festival Tour package.

Our Quilt Festival tour focuses on spots related to stitch art, beginning with a trip to the Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival held in Tokyo Dome.

This Quilt Festival Tour package is ideal for arts & craft lovers looking to see something new.



Tour Includes

- ✓ 9 nights Western hotel
- ✓ Daily Breakfast-Bufferets, 6 Lunches, and 3 Dinners included
- ✓ All ground transportation in Japan during the tour
- ✓ Complimentary Airport Transfers
- ✓ Admission Fees, Tax & Gratuities at all included Destinations
- ✓ Full time service of licensed English speaking tour guide & separate bus driver
- ✓ Japan Deluxe Tours Handbook and Tour Goods Package
- ✓ Free Wi-Fi in Bus & Most hotels
- ✓ Bullet train ride with Mt. Fuji

Tour Highlights

- Admission to the Tokyo Great Quilt Festival
- Nippori Textile Town, Quilt Part Retail Shop, & Other Fabric retailers
- Exhibits at the Amuse Museum
- Exhibits at the Amuse Museum
- Welcome Tea Party for Tour Participants
- Kyoto's incredible Craft Museum
- World Famous Kyoto destinations including Golden Pavilion
- Kyoto's Gion-Geisha District where you just might spot a Geisha
- Tickets to a dazzling Kimono show at the Nishijin Textile Center
- Tokyo's historic Asakusa Sensoji Temple
- Exhibits at the Arimatsu Narumi Tie-Dyeing Museum



Day by Day

Day 1 - Tokyo Arrival

Welcome to Japan. We will have transportation services to take you to your hotel. Please refer to your tour handbook for more information. Rest at the hotel and be ready to start your exciting tour tomorrow. Rest at the hotel and be ready for tomorrow.

INFORMATION

From Narita Airport to downtown hotel in Tokyo - about 90 mins(Bus)

From Haneda Airport to downtown hotel in Tokyo - about 30 mins(Bus)

Day 2 - Tokyo (B, D)

Today is the opening day of the Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival! To get ready for the fun, we will have a small welcome tea party after breakfast before heading to the convention. This is a great chance for all members to get acquainted with each other before this quilt tour begins.

After entering Tokyo Dome, the rest of day exploring through the booths and various events offered at the convention. We hope you enjoy the opening day of the Tokyo Quilt Festival.

Day 3 - Tokyo (B)

Today is the second day of the festival to be enjoyed at your leisure. Feel free to do some shopping or go out and explore the city of Tokyo.

The Koishikawa Korakuen Japanese Garden is located close to your hotel, and the famous Tsukiji Fish Market is just a short train ride away. Your guide can provide directions for both if needed, to ensure you enjoy the most of your Japan tour.

Day 4 - Tokyo (B, L)

Today will be spent visiting some of the essential shopping spots for craft lovers in Tokyo. We will begin our day visiting the famous quilt artist Yoko Saio's retail store Quilt Party. You can expect to find great fabrics and more goods perfect for your next project.

Then, we will head to Nippori Textile Town for more shopping and inspiration. The stores Mihama Clothes and Tomato are just two of many great choices you can expect.

Day 5 - Tokyo (B, L)

Our day begins in Asakusa, the town that maintains a traditional Japanese feel. We will also squeeze in some shopping at Nakamise street which leads to the temple.

After our time in Asakusa, we visit the Amuse Museum close by. At this charming live museum exhibits unique graphics, designs, and textile arts exclusive to Japan.

Next on our day is an antique market held at Yoyogi Park. You never know what you may find as you browse through the vendors trinkets and goods, but that what makes these markets so fun to visit.

Before we return to our hotel, we will visit Tokyu Hands, one of the long-established department stores for handicrafts in the all nation.

Day 6 - Tokyo & Yamanashi (B, L, D)

Today we will visit one of Japan's most astonishing fabric related museums in the suburbs of Tokyo. First our Japan quilt tour will go to Sashikokan in Hinohara village in the western part of Tokyo. This is the place of Sashiko artist Akie Ginza's exhibition.

Then, we will take a bullet train ride to Nagoya.

Day 7 - Nagoya & Kyoto (B, L)

This morning we will visit the Arimatsu Narumi Tie Dyeing Museum. Tie dyeing or shibori has a long history in Arimatsu, dating back to 1608. Here you can learn about the over 400 years of history of shibori and view and purchase these beautiful shibori works.

In the afternoon, we will then head to Kyoto to Nishijinori Kobo-Orinasukan, a fabric museum. Nishinori Kobo-Orinasukan exhibits various kinds of beautiful fabrics like kimono and obi (belt). Among the 600 artifacts and fabric, the museum's great selection of obi definitely attracts guests.

After viewing beautiful kinds of fabric, we will now spend some time at Yuzawaya, a famous large chain of craft stores. Yuzawaya is a great place to stock up on all your craft needs from fabric, yarn, paper, sewing tools, and much more.

Then we will head to the Nishijin Textile Center, where you can witness the creation of a traditional kimono. The center offers courses in hand-weaving, trying on elegant kimonos, and, if you like it, you can purchase it. You will be invited to see dazzling arrays of kimonos in a fashion show.

Day 8 - Kyoto (B, L)

Today will be dedicated to exploring the city of Kyoto sightseeing. Our Quilt Tour will start at UNESCO world heritage site Golden Pavilion. The Golden Pavilion, or Kinkakuji temple, is a Japan's must see attraction where the two upper floors are covered in gold leaf. This gorgeous temple is sure to leave you speechless. After that, our Quilt Tour will make a stop at the Aizenkobo Workshop where you can view completed works of Japanese indigo dyeing. Here you can get a look at various kinds of fabrics such as scarves, casual ware, dresses, etc. Before our day ends, we will visit the Gion-Geisha District in Kyoto in

hopes of seeing a geisha or two walk the streets. This is the best place to go to see a real geisha or herToday will be dedicated to exploring the city of Kyoto sightseeing. Our Quilt Tour will start at UNESCO world heritage site Golden Pavilion. The Golden Pavilion, or Kinkakuji temple, is a Japan's must see attraction where the two upper floors are covered in gold leaf. This gorgeous temple is sure to leave you speechless.

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Day 9 - Kyoto (B, L, D)

We will start our final morning with a visit to Kyoto Museum of Traditional Craft - Fureai-kan. Fureai-kan is a great informative museum with several exhibition halls that exhibit 77 kinds of traditional crafts. This exhibition hall has approximately 500 exhibits, many of which you can purchase. The Gallery of the museum is another interesting part of Fureai-kan, changing the exhibit on display every month. The works displayed in the gallery are usually of great historic value. Fureai-kan is a comprehensive museum where you can learn about various kinds of traditional Japanese craft including ceramics, woven textiles, doll making, lacquer ware, and more.

In the afternoon, you will have a chance to create your own cloisonne at the Kyoto Handicraft Center. Cloisonne is a technique of creating

and decorating metal objects. At the workshop you will decorate your very own cloisonne which the museum will bake for you to take home.

Having gained a closer look of Japanese indigo dyeing, our quilt tour will now provide the chance to experience dyeing your own shibori. At the Kyoto Shibori Workshop & Museum, the talented experts will guide you through making your very own, original shibori. You can even take your work of art home for a perfect souvenir to remember this unique experience. The museum has a great collection of shibori for you to gain inspiration from.

To end our great quilt festival tour, we will end the day with a farewell dinner with the group.

Day 10 - Osaka Departure (B)

Your pleasant and memorable Japan tour ends today. The tour will disband after breakfast. Fly home with cherished memories or enjoy your extended stay in Japan.

****INFORMATION****

From downtown hotel in Osaka to KIX Airport - about 70 mins (Bus)

From downtown hotel in Osaka to ITM Airport - about 30 mins (Bus)

Information

Maximum Group Size

The maximum number of participants will not exceed 24 people during your Japan tour. Your group may be joined with other tour groups during the tour. Please note that your bus and tour guide may be changed if other groups join the tour.

Single Supplement

Single travelers are required to pay a single supplement in order to guarantee single room accommodation.

Luggage

We request one suitcase, one carry-on bag, and an overnight bag per person. The tote bag we provide can be used to hold any small merchandise/souvenirs purchased during your tour. When you check out, bring your luggage to the lobby and the bus driver will assist in loading it onto the bus. When you arrive at the next hotel, the bus driver will unload your luggage for you to bring to your room.

Please note: The maximum weight of a checked in bag is typically 20 Kilograms or 44 Pounds. You will be traveling with your luggage except during the bullet train ride (if applicable).

Accommodation

All hotel rooms come with a full bathroom and room amenities free of charge unless stated otherwise.

Transportation

All motor coaches come equipped with air-conditioning, plenty of space, comfortable seats, and Wi-Fi. This tour includes a bullet train ride experience.

International Flights

All of our tours begin in either Tokyo or Osaka.

When beginning or ending a tour in Tokyo, please book flights to or from Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport.

For tours beginning or ending in Osaka, please book flights to or from Kansai International Airport or Itami Airport.

You can also contact us if you would like for Japan Deluxe Tour's to arrange your flights.

Fitness & Shoes

Traveling and visiting sights in Japan includes a good amount of walking. To fully enjoy the tour, please be prepared to keep up with the pace of the group, climb stairs with no difficulty, and wear comfortable shoes for all day use.

Itinerary & Hotel Disclaimer

Our itinerary is constantly improving, therefore we cannot always guarantee the destinations and attractions shown at the time of booking will be the same spots visited on the tour. Itinerary and hotels are subject to change or cancellation without notice. No refund will be owed for any changes or cancellations if the tour still occurs.

Our goal is to show you the very best of Japan, which is why we are always looking to improve our itineraries. Your "Tour Handbook" you receive one month prior to your tour departure will have the most accurate information for your tour.

Optional Tours

Japan Deluxe Tours offers numerous add-on tours to give you a personalized experience. Select from a range of optional excursions when reserving your tour on our website. Fees associated with optional tours are not included in the listed price of the tour. Prices for optional tours are listed on the reservation page.

Guide & Staff

All of our tour guides are licensed by the government, after passing certification exams administered by the Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency and register with the relevant prefectures.

Our guides speak Japanese and English, and are here to provide accurate information about the sights and attractions you see.

Our drivers will be sure to provide a comfortable ride from start to finish, assist you with your luggage at the start and end of each day, and are experts navigating the roads of Japan. If you have any questions before or during your tour, our staff is ready to help.

Visa Requirement

Citizens of the USA, CAN, UK, AUS, and NZ do not require an entry visa when visiting Japan. If you are from a country not listed above, please check with the Japanese Embassy, or contact us for more information.

Meals

Our tours include daily breakfast buffets, as well as local and regional specialties. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions, and we will do what we can to meet your specific dietary needs.

Airport Transfer

Complimentary airport & hotel transfers are available for the designated airports only, on the designated tour arrival & departure dates only.

Electricity

Most power outlets in Japan are for "Non-polarized Plugs" (2 prongs are same width) only. While there are some that will fit "Polarized Plugs" (2 prongs are different widths), "grounded plugs" (plugs with a ground pin) will not work without a converter.

Safety and Cleanliness

Japan is extremely safe, with one of the lowest crime rates in the world. The country is also hospitable, clean, prompt, polite, efficient, friendly, and the tap water is safe to drink. Most cities in Japan do not have garbage cans along the streets.

If you have trash with you as you walk, carry it with you until you find the appropriate garbage receptacle. There are separate bins for regular trash, burnable trash, aluminum cans and glass bottles.

Bathrooms

Japan has two styles of toilets. The commonly known Western-style and traditional Japanese-style toilet.

Japanese-style toilets are at floor level, and to use, face the hump. In a location with several toilets there may be a Western toilet as indicated on the door.

On the Shinkansen (bullet train) go for the handicapped stall, because those have Western-style toilets.

In public restrooms, you may need to be prepared with a travel pack of tissues. These packages are often handed out free (with advertisements on the reverse) as you walk along major thoroughfares in the large cities, such as Tokyo and Osaka.

Japan is also recognized for extremely high tech toilets that include heated seats, bidet, deodorizer, and can even play sounds.

Japanese Bathing & Onsen

Bathing in an onsen is a quintessential aspect of Japanese culture. Extremely few countries have public baths like Japan. Towels and swimsuits are not allowed in the actual bath itself as a means to keep the water pure/clean which means everybody is naked.

There are rules you must follow while in the onsen, one of the most important being washing yourself before getting into the bath. Because it is a communal bath, anyone who enters the bath must thoroughly wash beforehand.

In any Japanese bath, there will always be a row or multiple rows of sitting shower stalls where you can wash yourself, usually with complimentary body wash, shampoo, and etc. Though bathing naked with strangers with only a small towel for cover can be a daunting experience, it is one well worth trying.

In case of Emergency

While traveling presents exciting adventures and new experiences, there is always the risk of something going wrong. Our guides and staff will do the best to help you during your tour in case of an emergency, and there is an emergency contact number provided on our "Tour Handbooks" in case you need us during your tour.

Internet and Wi-Fi

Hotels

Most hotels in Japan offer free Wi-Fi. However, some higher end Western style hotels charge for Wi-Fi, while traditional Japanese inns do not provide Wi-Fi at all.

Free Wi-Fi

There are many options for Free Wi-Fi in Japan. The three largest options include: Free Wi-Fi Passport, Travel Japan Wi-Fi, and Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi. There is also free Wi-Fi available at 7-11 and Lawson convenient stores and at major JR stations across Tokyo.

Rental Smartphones/SIM Cards

Keep your smartphone connected with data while in Japan with a rental SIM Card, or rent a smart phone.

Many companies in Japan provide services renting out cell phones or sim cards, providing unlimited data and also Wi-Fi tethering abilities.

You can only use a rented SIM Card provided your phone is not locked to a specific company (SIM-Free).

Rental Wi-Fi

A rental Wi-Fi is a great way to internet access, especially when travelling with a group. Renting a pocket Wi-Fi allows multiple devices to connect at once. A great option for families or group travelers, Wi-Fi rentals are available for pick-up in hotels, airports, or even in your home country.

Currency

Yen

The Japanese unit of currency is the Yen. You can exchange your money at the airport, at most banks and at post offices. They should have the current rates of exchange clearly on display. You'll need your passport when exchanging money.

ATM

You can get a cash advance at 12000 ATM machines located at Seven Eleven convenience stores around Japan at any time using your ATM or credit cards. (You can use Visa, Plus Debit Card, American Express, JCB, Discover & Diners Club) Japanese Post Offices also offer ATM cash withdrawal service for overseas ATM cards.

Credit Card

Credit cards are accepted at stores and services in Japan, but most cases are cash only. You may need cash for buses, taxis, trains, and admission to some museums, sights, temples, and shrines.

Sales Tax

Japan has an 8% consumer tax (the price shown on goods is before this tax) and some local taxes for restaurant bills exceeding 5,000 yen and hotel bills exceeding 10,000 yen.

Tipping

Japan is a tip free country and you do not have to tip chambermaid, taxi drivers, or hotel or restaurant personnel. At Japan Deluxe Tour, we do not have tipping guidelines nor expect receive gratuities from our customers.

It is up to your discretion to tip our staff in Japan only if you believe that you have received excellent service from them. Your travel document holder contains a gratuity envelope for your convenience, however it does not mean you will have to use it.

Weather

Visiting Japan can be enjoyable in every season of the year. Below is a brief introduction to Japan's four seasons.

Winter (December - February)

Most locations on our tours, such as Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, will have a cool winter, with the temperature rarely dropping below 0°C. Central Japan and Northern Japan are highly reputed regions for winter sports. Southern Japan is comparatively mild and pleasant in winter.

Clothing: overcoats, sweaters, etc.

Spring (March - May)

Marked with Cherry Blossoms, the spring season is mild throughout Japan. Cherry Blossoms fill the skies making this the ideal time to visit Japan

Clothing: light jackets, light sweaters and other similar kinds of tops.

Summer (June - August)

The Japanese summer begins in June with a three to four week rainy season. The weather is hot and humid from July onward. Summer is when many interesting festivals and other events are held all over the country.

Clothing: light clothes (cardigans and other similar kinds are handy, since indoors are mostly air-conditioned.)

Autumn (September - November)

Autumn brings light breezes and cooler temperatures after the hot summer. The weather is cool and crisp and the leaves begin changing to glorious autumn colors.

Clothing: light jackets, light sweaters and other similar kinds of tops.

Packing

There's plenty to see and do in Japan, so be sure to pack accordingly.

We advise to check the weather when deciding on what clothes to bring, but don't forget the essentials like:

- Travel Documents (Passport/ Travel Insurance/ Flight Ticket/ Tour Handbook)
- Camera/Cell Phone/Laptop other Electronic Devices and Chargers
- Clothing
- Comfortable Walking Shoes
- Portable first-aid kit
- Money
- Hat/Sunglasses/Watch
- Hand Towel/Travel Wipes
- Eye Mask/Ear Plugs
- Day Pack for Essential