

# ANIME JAPAN TOUR | GRAND TOUR

15 Days

Tokyo ▶ Hakone ▶ Kyoto ▶ Nara ▶ Osaka ▶ Hyogo ▶ Hiroshima ▶ Saga ▶ Nagasaki ▶ Kumamoto ▶ Takachiho ▶ Beppu ▶ Matsuyama ▶ Takamatsu ▶ Tokushima ▶ Osaka

## Tour Overview

The perfect tour for fans of anime and manga, our AnimeJapan | Grand Tour is ideal for someone wanting to see the best of Japan while indulging in their passions.

Join us in this great Japan Anime Tour as we uncover every aspect of Japanese culture from the Anime & Manga of Tokyo to the traditional treasures!



## Tour Includes

- ✓ 12 nights Western hotel and 2 night Japanese-style hotel with hot-springs
- ✓ Daily Breakfast-Buffets, 7 Lunches, and 5 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 & Green Tea Ceremony

## Tour Highlights

- A day at the AnimeJapan Festival in Tokyo
- The electronics and anime town of Akihabara
- 20+ Anime stores at Tokyo Character Street
- A trip to the Ghibli Museum
- Shopping and trading time at the Pokemon Center
- Sightseeing at Todaiji Temple and Deer Park
- A boat ride to Miyajima to see the floating gates of Itsukushima Shrine
- Time at Dogo Onsen, the backdrop for the popular Ghibli Film "Spirited Away"
- The historic Kumamoto Castle and Samurai Mansion
- Time exploring Takachiho Gorge, where Japan's myths and legends originate

# 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.

### \*\*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, L)

Before our big day at the International Anime Fair - AnimeJapan tomorrow, our Anime tour will visit some of the best anime sites Tokyo has to offer. We first start with some traditional Japanese culture and shopping at Asakusa. Enjoy shopping at the Nakamise area and the stunning red temple that is Sensoji. We then make our way to Sunshine City to check out the Pokemon Mega Center, a must-go for all Pokemon lovers. Besides all the Pokemon goods they sell, they also have a battling and trading room for customers to interact with other Pokemon fans.

After browsing through exclusive products, we will head over to J-World, the Shonen Jump theme-park in Tokyo! Play games and win prizes based on all your favorite characters, including Goku from Dragonball, Luffy and Co from One Piece, Naruto and Sasuke, Kuroko and the rest of the Generation of Miracles, and Hinata and his team of volleyball hopefuls! Win prizes and shop to your hearts content at the J-World store before our next stop.

For lunch, enjoy sushi with fish provided by the Tsukiji Fish Market, the famous fish market that provides freshest ingredients for thousands of families and businesses alike.

Following our time at the market, the tour will visit the lively Tokyo Character Street in Tokyo Central Station. The area is lined with various anime-themed shops, including a Jump Store, Pokemon Center, Hello Kitty shop, Ghibli store, and more! There's also Tokyo Ramen Street, Okashi Land, and Gachapon Street, perfect for someone who wants some lunch and to do a little more gift shopping for friends or for themselves!

After our adventures at Character Street, we will head to Akihabara, the town of anime. While there, enjoy shopping and sightseeing for the rest of the day at some of the most popular otaku destinations, including Animate. Animate carries all kinds of character goods, electronics, and games from current and popular anime/manga series.

## Day 3 - Tokyo (B)

Today's the big day of the International Anime Fair - AnimeJapan! Join the many cosplayers, otaku, and anime lovers of all degrees in the biggest Anime event in the world. Anime, manga, doujinshi, guest speakers, figurines, rare items, video games, limited and exclusive covers are all accessible at this large event. Enjoy your day exploring the grounds and meeting people with the same passion as you!

If the fair isn't enough, you also have the option to join an optional tour at 3pm to explore the famous Shibuya Crossing and Gundam Base Tokyo to see the awesome life-size RX-0 Unicorn Gundam model (72 ft). The Gundam Base is an expansive store, museum, and features a cafe for guests to enjoy everything Gundam.

Feel free to enjoy the night at your leisure, or you have the option to enjoy the night as you wish, or sign up for a few optional excursions. We have the new VR Zone Shinjuku, an incredible VR-focused arcade, the Ninja Trick House where guests can enjoy learning how to throw ninja-stars and also learn the ways of the ninja, or a meal at the CAPCOM BAR, a themed-restaurant showcasing the best of CAPCOM, including games and themed-meals, or sign up for a MariKart experience and drive go-karts around Tokyo dressed as some of your favorite characters!

You also have the option of staying a night in a capsule hotel for one night (additional fees may apply for capsule hotel and/or additional excursions)

## Day 4 - Tokyo (B, L)

We will start our morning heading to Harajuku for shopping and snacks along Takeshita Dori. This shopping area is the perfect place to get in touch with Japan's pop culture trends, and to sample some of the best crepes in Japan.

After our time in Harajuku, we head to Tokyo Tower, Japan's iconic tower. Tokyo Tower has been taken over by One Piece, resulting in Tokyo One Piece Tower. Known as Tongari Island, this event is filled with attractions, wonderful restaurants, and a live-action show designed to wow fans of all ages.

Following our time at the tower, we head east to visit the famed Ghibli Museum. This animation and art museum exhibits works of Miyazaki Hayao, creator of world famous films such as My Neighbor Totoro, Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, and Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea. Ghibli Film fans will definitely enjoy the artistic museum, which not only exhibits the history and techniques of animation but also plays short movies in a theater room, produced exclusively for

the museum.

After the museum, it's time for dinner at the Robot Restaurant in Shinjuku for those interested! Enjoy a show like none before, fusing classic Japanese elements with the dreams and fantasies of the future. The restaurant has a wild vibe and a unique experience you are sure to find entertaining.

### **Day 5 - Tokyo (B)**

We have cleared up the day for you to explore and enjoy Japan as you wish.

You can either 1) enjoy the entire day as you wish

2) visit Tokyo Disney Land, Fuji Q Amusement Park, or Tokyo DisneySea or another theme-park

3) Join a Mario Kart day tour\*

4) go on a private-guided tour through Nikko or Kamakura

For those who wish to visit Tokyo Disney Land, Fuji Q Amusement Park, or Sanrio Puroland, your tour guide will be happy to explain directions. (additional fees may apply for additional tour options. Please contact us in advanced for this service)

\*The Mario Kart experience requires an International Driving Permit. Please contact us for more information if you would like to participate.

### **Day 6 - Yokohama, Hakone & Mt. Fuji (B, L, D)**

Our day begins with a visit to the Ramen Yokocho Museum in Yokohama. This interactive food-themed amusement park offers all kinds of ramen around the country and world. There are multiple ramen restaurants, each representing a different type of ramen Japan has to offer. Taste your favorite ramen and learn about the history of ramen during your visit.

After our ramen adventures, we head to the Iyashi no Sato, a traditional craft open-air museum reconstructed from the village's thatched roofed houses. Each house features a different exhibit, workshop, or cafe, including some cooking lessons.

This Japan tour would not be complete without a long relaxing soak in the onsen, hot spring, to rejuvenate you for tomorrow's adventure. Yukata, a Japanese robe, will be provided for you. The onsen is located in our own ryokan, a Japanese style hotel, which includes a traditional Japanese meal known as Kaiseki Ryori!

### **Day 7 - Kyoto (B, L)**

Our day begins with a bullet train ride to Kyoto. The bullet train is the fastest way to travel on land and is considered an essential Japanese experience. Enjoy riding to Kyoto in comfort and speed, and be sure to take some photos of the scenery during your ride. We will begin exploring Kyoto with a visit to the Golden Pavilion, or Kinkakuji Temple, a Japan's must see attraction where the two upper floors are covered in gold leaf. The reflection of the golden temple on the lake adds to the stunning sight.

Knowing our guests may want a little more anime/manga before their trip is over, we will stop by the Kyoto International Manga Museum, to learn more about the influence Manga has on Japan. Taking advantage of the beauty in Kyoto, we will head to Ninenzaka, an ancient street reminiscent of the Edo period, perfect for gift shopping or just to sip on some coffee at one of the many local cafes.

We will then head back to Kyoto to see the Fushimi Inari Shrine, one of Kyoto's many can't miss destinations that features hundreds of red torii gates. The path is perfect for photos or just to calm your mind. Once we get all our photos done, we will return to the hotel.

### **Day 8 - Nara & Osaka (B)**

Before we make our way to Osaka, it's off to Nara to see Todaiji Temple. Todaiji Temple holds the World Guinness Record as the largest wooden building. Inside the temple, you will behold the largest Buddha statue in Japan. Just outside the temple is the Nara Deer Park, where you will be greeted by numerous deer that roam around freely. The deer here at the park are known to be friendly and may even bow at you for a little treat.

Before our tour ends, it's off to Osaka's Dotonburi area and Kuromon Ichiba Market for some more shopping and nightlife before we make it to our hotel!

### **Day 9 - Osaka & Hiroshima (B, D)**

We will begin today by heading to Dotonburi and Kuromon Ichiba Market in Osaka. These are great locations to sample some of Osaka's famous cuisine, or to get any kitchen supplies you may need.

Next our tour bus will make a stop at Himeji-jo, or Himeji Castle. Himeji-jo is a UNESCO distinguished site, representing Japanese castle architecture at its highest with almost all of the castle structure still intact from its original construction in the early 1600's, having survived all wars, earthquakes and natural disasters.

During our day, we will enjoy Okonomiyaki, savory Japanese pancakes that is a specialty in both Osaka and Hiroshima. We will then make our way to Hiroshima and check into our hotel.

### **Day 10 - Hiroshima (B)**

Today our Japan tour begins with a visit to the iconic Itsukushima Shrine. Located off the main shore on the island of Miyajima, the iconic gate that floats is a must see. During high tide, the torii gate looks as though it is floating in water, creating a unique sight, considered one of Japan's three

most beautiful sights. Miyajima is also known for its momiji manju (maple leaf shaped cake with red beans) and oysters which you can enjoy during your time on the island.

After our visit, we will spend more time sight-seeing in Hiroshima. One of the main highlights here in Hiroshima is the A-Bomb Dome, the only surviving building from the aftermath, and the Peace Park Memorial where you can see and read about the relic of the war.

The A-Bomb Dome has been preserved to be a reminder of the tragedy for future generations and to symbolize its wishes for everlasting peace. Stroll along the park to see famous attractions like that of Sada-ko's statue and the freedom bell. Here you can see and read about the relic of the war.

### **Day 11 - Saga & Nagasaki (B, L, D)**

Our day begins in Arita, where we will see some of the finest porcelain creations. Our day then takes us to Nagasaki where we have much to cover. We will head to Glover Garden which exhibits Western style mansions. After viewing these gorgeous mansions, we will continue with our foreign influences to the Oura Catholic Church. The Oura Catholic Church is Japan's oldest standing Catholic church.

Our last stop of the day is the Nagasaki Peace Park which was built to commemorate the Nagasaki atomic bomb. In the park is a large pillar engraved with the names of the victims.

### **Day 12 - Kumamoto & Takachiho (B, D)**

Our day begins in Kumamoto to visit Kumamoto Castle. Kumamoto Castle is considered one of the three premier castles in Japan, along with Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle. Thirteen structures in the castle complex are designated Important

Cultural Property. Several ancillary wooden buildings remain of the original castle.

Located next to the castle is the Hosokawa family Mansion, the family home for one of Japan's most powerful samurai families. Walk through the residence to get a better understanding of the life among the elites, and see some relics from the Edo period in the home-turned-museum. We will then head to Mt. Aso, the largest active volcano in Japan and among the largest in the world. Before our day ends, we will enjoy watching a Yokogura show.

### **Day 13 - Beppu & Matsuyama (B, L, D)**

Our morning begins in the hot spring town of Beppu, where we are going for an exciting Tour of Hell. From the eight famous spots, we will visit three: the Sea Hell made up of bright cobalt blue hot water, the Blood Pond Hell where hot water containing red melted clay gushes out, and the Tornado Hell, a fiery geyser that erupts every 20 minutes. After lunch, we will take a boat ride to Matsuyama, a castle city.

Following the pattern of hot springs, we will visit one of the oldest hot springs in the world, Dogo Onsen, which is said to have over 3,000 years of history. The onsen is also widely known for welcoming the imperial family as guests and has a room called Yushinden on reserve exclusively for their use.

Dogo Onsen's impressive wooden structure served as a model for the famous film "Spirited Away". Enjoy a Rickshaw ride through the city grounds while you're at the hot spring, and be sure to watch a traditional Taiko drum show in the evening.

### **Day 14 - Takamatsu & Tokushima (B, L)**

Our day will begin heading towards Osaka. Traveling East, we will visit one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan that overlooks Mt. Shiun, Ritsurin Garden. Michelin Green Guide graded the garden three stars and is a great place to take photos, especially from the highest point that overlooks the entire garden.

While making our way through Tokushima, we will stop at the Awa-odori Museum, a museum dedicated to the prefectural dance of Tokushima. During the annual Awa-Odori festival, thousands of spectators flock to Japan to watch the traditional dance. Enjoy learning some steps and history of Awa-odori at this great museum.

Our last stop before hitting Osaka is Naruto, a small town off the coast. Here in Naruto, many hope to observe the large Naruto whirlpools that can be seen under very ideal conditions. (\*The whirlpool can only be seen at certain times of the day and thus we cannot guarantee seeing the whirlpool in action.)

### **Day 15 - 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