

Code JJH **Japan Highlights**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 11-11-2013

Tour Code: JJH

Duration: 6 nights / 7 days

Joining City: Tokyo

Departure City: Kyoto

Nearest Joining International Airport: Tokyo Haneda International Airport (HND), Narita International Airport (NRT)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Kyoto Kansai International Airport (KIX)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

-  [Packing List for Adventure Tours](#)
-  [Joining Letter for Tours Beginning in Tokyo](#)
-  [Optional Excursions Guide for Tours to Asia and Russia](#)
-  [Asia Pre Departure Booklet](#)
-  [Japan Dossier](#)

What's Included

- > Takayama bicycle tour
- > 6 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses
- > 6 breakfasts, 1 dinners
- > Travel by local public bus, train, taxi, on foot
- > Tucan Travel Tour Leader

What's not Included

- > International flights and departure taxes
- > Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- > Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- > Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- > Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- > Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 2 - Arrive Tokyo

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

New and old collide in Tokyo, Japan's capital city that never sleeps. As you discover the city you will find there is no actual centre to Tokyo but a collection of impressive districts, all full of attractions. Shinjuku is the main cosmopolitan entertainment quarter for restaurants, shopping and Japans busiest rail

station. Here huge plasma screens blast out bright, neon advertisements, while side streets house strip clubs and smoky jazz bars. A quieter option is to spend time in Ueno (Koen) Park where you can visit the Tokyo Zoological Gardens, National Museums, wander among the cherry trees and see the historical Toshogu Shrine.

Your tour leader will assist you in validating your rail pass which you will use on your tour, and then take you on a morning orientation walk via the metro to the Imperial Palace, the Emperor Meiji Shrine and the area of Harajuku, famous for its quirky youth fashion culture.

Included Excursions: Tokyo Orientation Walk

Day 3 to 4 - Takayama

We take the Shinkansen Bullet train to Nagoya and change to a local train for the beautiful trip up through the Japanese Alps to Takayama. Here you will have the chance to test the local rice wine. 'Sake' is brewed using rice, water and white koji mold as the main ingredients.

We begin our introduction to the traditional city of Takayama with an exploratory bike ride through the town to familiarise you with the famous sites. Takayama is located in the mountainous Hida region of Gifu Prefecture, which has retained a traditional feel unlike many other Japanese cities, especially in its beautifully preserved Old Town. The southern half of the Old Town, especially the Sannomachi Street, is particularly pretty with many old homes, shops, coffee houses and sake breweries, some of which have been in business for centuries. After our bike ride is over you can lose yourself in the back streets or venture out of town if you're feeling adventurous.

Included Excursions: Takayama Bicycle Tour

Day 5 to 6 - Kyoto

We take the early morning local train to our bullet train which will deliver us to the modern, vibrant Imperial Capital of Kyoto. Kyoto was fortunate to be spared in the World War II bombings and has retained literally thousands of ancient shrines, temples and palaces, some dating back centuries.

There is an optional tour of the city by foot and local bus, including a stop at old Gion Square where some scenes from the movie 'Memoirs of a Geisha' were filmed. If you haven't read the book it's a great insight into traditional Japanese life and the effects of the war on society. It may also be possible to see a geisha dance performance or tea ceremony demonstration.

You will find that in Kyoto, the old and the new co-exist in perfect harmony. Close to the city's famous Toji temple is an impressive 57 metre high Buddhist pagoda dating back to 794AD, the year the city was established as the Imperial Capital. Right next door, the monthly Kobo-san flea market offers a bargain hunter's paradise, where you can rummage through a range of items from second hand kimonos to war memorabilia, food and sculptures.

If you are interested in Japanese cultural history, you may like to visit the Kamo Shrines, called the Shimogamo Shrine and Kamigamo Shrine, which are both recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and are among the most important in Japan. Predating even the Toji temple, these shrines were traditionally visited by members of the Imperial court, who would worship Shinto gods called Kami, and ask them to protect the city and help it to prosper. The Shimogamo Shrine is surrounded by the Tadasu no Mori forest, which features trees that are up to 600 years old, while the nearby Kamigamo Shrine is known for sand cones at its entrance, which have been built and rebuilt since ancient times to help purify and protect the shrine.

Day 7 to 7 - Depart Kyoto

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

This itinerary is a guide. Changes may be made before or during your tour to improve the running or due to unforeseen circumstances.

Travel Style

This is an **Adventure Tour**. We see a destination from the locals' perspective using a variety of transport and staying in small locally owned accommodation. There is a maximum of 16 travellers with an average group size of 8-12.

Add-ons & Extras

We stay one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

Rooming

All our **Adventure Tours** are priced per person on a shared room basis meaning there is no compulsory extra payment for those travelling on their own.

[I'd like my own room](#)

If you are a solo traveller, a single room is available on most occasions at an extra cost. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals	Single Room
Day 1	Tokyo	Japan		
Day 2	Tokyo		B	
Day 3	Takayama		B	
Day 4	Takayama		BD	
Day 5	Kyoto		B	
Day 6	Kyoto		B	
Day 7	Kyoto		B	

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available.