

## Self-Guided Tour Tokyo and Beyond Tour

### Tokyo and Beyond Tour



Tokyo (Edo during the time of the Samurai), in the Kanto Region of Japan, was the center of power for the Shogun's government during the Edo Period. Despite Tokyo's non-stop, super-modern feel, its traditions can still be seen tucked away between the skyscrapers and amongst the people. The Tokyo and Beyond Tour will show you not only the modern capital of Japan, but the parts of it that represent old Japan and Edo culture.

#### Destinations:

**Tokyo** - Modern Japan with hidden gems of the past

**Kawagoe (day trip)** - Traditional Edo and the charms of the past

**Nikko** - Sacred forests and mountains where Ieyasu Tokugawa (the first Shogun) is enshrined

**Hakone** - Rejuvenate in the hot springs used by the Shoguns and their samurai.

Our Tokyo and Beyond Tour is an 8 day self-guided tour that will give you a chance to see Tokyo and visit the playgrounds of the Shogunates as well as modern Tokyo. Since this is a self-guided tour you will not have to worry about visiting places you have no interest in or at a pace that is not right for you.

**The price is US\$ 2,350 per person**, including all transportation between destinations, accommodations, 6 breakfasts and 3 evening meals. This tour can also be combined with a tour of Kyoto, Nara or other destinations. This tour starts and finishes in Japan.

I hope the above has peaked your interest in this tour. If you have any questions or wish to sign up for a tour please [Contact Us](#).



#### Dates

Open - Self-Guided Tour

#### Prices 2009

US\$ 2,350 per guest (2 guest minimum)

#### Duration

6 nights, 7 days

#### Guidance

You will be met at Narita International Airport by a member of our staff who will take you to your first destination and hotel. Detailed materials as well as support from our experts in Japan will be available for this self-guided tour. No tour leader will be supplied.

#### Highlights

Old and modern sights in Tokyo, historic warehouse buildings and remains of Edo Castle in Kawagoe, The Shogunal Toshogu Shrine and Kegon Falls in Nikko, hot spring baths and views of Mount Fuji in Hakone.

#### Mode of Travel

Train ('Shinkansen' bullet train, limited express and local trains), cable car, ropeway, taxi (not included in tour costs) and on foot.

#### Group Size

Minimum 2, Maximum 14 participants

#### Age Restrictions

Participants should be at least 12 years old. Everyone younger than 20 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## Itinerary Details:

### Day 1 – Tokyo - **Western Style Hotel** - Western Style Room

- Arrive at Narita International Airport
- Stay in a city center hotel

After a long flight to Japan you will be met by one of Japan Roads staff who will take you to your hotel in Tokyo. If your plane arrive early in the day our staff will also show you around and help plan some of your time in Tokyo.

### Day 2 – Tokyo- **Western Style Hotel** - Western Style Room

- Rikugien Japanese Landscape Garden
- Meiji Imperial Shrine
- Ginza District

You will start off your day with a visit to enjoy the beauty of Rikugien, an 18th century landscape garden and arguably the most beautiful Japanese garden in Tokyo. Next you will visit to the Meiji Imperial Shrine, where you can relax in the forested setting and enjoy the traditional Shinto architecture of this oasis nestled within one of the world's busiest modern metropolis. Finally, you will end your day in Ginza, the upscale downtown district with huge department stores, fancy restaurants, the national Kabuki (traditional form of drama) Theater, the Sony Building where you can look at the company's newest cutting-edge gadgets, and more.

### Day 3 – Tokyo with a day trip to Kawagoe - Stay in the same hotel as on day 2 - Western Style Room

- Travel to Kawagoe
- Kurazukuri Street (historic Edo period buildings)
- Kashiya Yokocho (Candy Alley)

Today you will take a short trip to Kawagoe, a small town just to the north of Tokyo. Kita-In Temple was destroyed in a fire in 1638, and the Shogun in Edo (now Tokyo) donated some structures from his castle to help rebuild it - these can still be seen today and are the only remaining parts of the castle in Edo. Kurazukuri street shows off Kawagoe's past as an important commercial hub, and its huge, fireproof warehouses for storing rice have been preserved here in order to give a glimpse into the past. Finally, Kashiya Yokocho, or "Candy Alley," is a quaint part of town in which you can buy traditional Japanese sweets of all varieties, including specialty treats of Kawagoe like Karinto (deep-fried cookies) and snacks made from sweet potatoes.

### Day 4 – Nikko - **Ryokan Lodging** - Japanese Style Room

- Toshogu Shrine
- Rinnoji Temple
- Overnight in a *Ryokan* (Japanese inn)

Upon arriving in the small mountain town of Nikko, you will go to Toshogu shrine, its most famous sight. This lavishly decorated Shinto Shrine, one of the most well-known in Japan, is also the mausoleum to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the most famous Shogun in Japanese history. In addition, there are a number of famous wood carvings at Toshogu, including the three monkeys embodying the phrase, "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil." You will also see Rinnoji Temple, which was founded by Shodo Shonin, who introduced Buddhism to Nikko in the 8th century. At the end of the day, you will stay the night and dine at a Japanese style ryokan.

### Day 5 – Tokyo - **Western Style Hotel** - Western Style Room

- Kegon no Taki (Kegon Falls) in Okunikko
- Return to Tokyo and Explore Its Modern Sights

The first stop today will be the picturesque Kegon Falls, located in Lake Chuzenji in Okunikko. This waterfall is 97 meters high and one of the tallest in Japan. This will be followed by a visit to Futarasan Shrine, founded in 767 by Shodo Shonin in (the same monk who founded Rinnoji): this shrine is dedicated to three mountain deities and houses two swords that are national treasures. After returning to Tokyo, you will have the chance to explore freely and see some of the modern sights of the city. Destination suggestions within the city include: the Shiodome District (breathtaking skyscrapers and a reconstruction of the old Shinbashi train station), Akihabara (the flashy and famous electronic goods district), Odaiba (a futuristic island entertainment district in the bay), or Shibuya (a trendy shopping and entertainment district south of Shinjuku).



## **Day 6 – Hakone - Ryokan Lodging** - Japanese Style Room

- Travel to Hakone
- Old Tokaido Highway
- Lake Ashinoko
- Overnight in a Hot Spring *Ryokan* (Japanese inn)

You will be going to one of the finest hot spring resorts in Japan, Hakone, today. This area has been popular as a hot spring resort for hundreds of years, and its natural beauty and abundance of hot spring baths make it an ideal spot to relax after spending time in the capital, just as feudal lords did hundreds of years ago. While in Hakone, you will have the chance to walk parts of the old Tokaido highway which connected Edo (Tokyo) with Kyoto in times past, ride the scenic Tozan Railway through the mountains, and visit the breathtaking Lake Ashinoko. Additionally, you will be staying overnight at a ryokan with hot spring baths and delicious food.



## **Day 7 – Hakone - Tour Ends**

- Return to Tokyo and then home

Today is the last day of the tour. You can either return to Tokyo and continue on to Narita International Airport to catch your homeward flight, or else continue on to other destinations you plan to visit.

**Note:** If you want to visit other destinations in Japan, you will be in a good position to do so, as Tokyo is a main hub for most Shinkansen ("bullet trains") in Japan. A 7 day pass is included with your tour, but if you pay the additional cost we can purchase a 14 day pass or 21 day pass so you can continue sightseeing in Japan once the tour is over. If you are interested in this option, we recommend you take the tour first and do other sightseeing afterwards. The Kyoto area is highly recommended for any first-time visitor to Japan, and is easily accessible by Shinkansen from Tokyo.



## **Tour Accommodation:**

Throughout the tour, you will have the chance to stay at Japanese style inns, or ryokans, as well as modern, Western style hotels. By choosing the best accommodations possible and offering both traditional and modern lodging experiences, Japan Roads aims to give you a deeper insight into life in Japan and make you as comfortable as possible. In particular, the traditional accommodations will allow you to have close personal contact with the Japanese owners and staff of these places, thus deepening your cultural experience.

**Sample Accommodations** (may vary but will be of similar quality)

Tokyo: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Premium (Western Hotel)

Nikko: Senhime Monogatari (Japanese Ryokan)

Hakone: Matsuzakaya Honten (Japanese Ryokan)

## **Cuisine:**

To make sure you get the most of your Japan experience, Japan Road tours offer a wide variety of Japanese cuisine to enjoy. You will have the chance to dine on local specialties as well as traditional gourmet food offered in the ryokans.



## **About Self-Guided Tours:**

The tour gives offers you the materials necessary to get to your destinations and see the most interesting sights available, while giving you the flexibility and freedom to enjoy things at your own pace. We provide you with the train tickets, lodging reservations made in advance, rail and walking maps, general cultural and etiquette tips, a suggest itinerary, explanations and history of the places you will visit, as well as other information you may need. You will also have our contact number in Japan in case you need to call for assistance. Please note that you will have to pay for taxis to and from lodging places yourself.

**This 7 day tour begins and ends in Japan.**

Tour schedules are subject to change without notice. If any changes should be made it will be done in the best interest of the travelers.

