LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

Classic Japan 2019

9 days from $12,495
Limited to 18 guests

Immerse yourself in Japan's diverse culture, as you stroll a seafood market in Tokyo, stay at a ryokan (traditional inn) in Hakone, savor a foodie tour in Osaka, witness sumo wrestling in Nara, and enjoy entertainment by a geiko (geisha) in Kyoto.

A&K Advantages

Experience the distinctive culture and history of Japan, from fast-paced, neon-lit Tokyo to serene, traditional Kyoto

View the exalted flowering cherry trees, or sakura, which bloom every spring; or opt for the red leaves of autumn

Ride Like a Local on a bullet train along the classic stretch past majestic Mount Fuji

Be among the few to stay at Gôra Kadan, one of the country's most exclusive ryokans (traditional inns), with access made possible by A&K’s hallmark small group size.

Capture the spirit of Japan with the art of the tea ceremony

Savor Kyoto’s unique cuisine and traditions during an exclusive Shabushabu dinner, with entertainment by a geiko (as a geisha is called in Kyoto) and a maiko (apprentice geisha)
**Itinerary**

**DAY 1 ARRIVE TOKYO, JAPAN**
Arrive in Tokyo, Japan’s exciting and modern capital. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy the expansive views over Tokyo’s Skyline.
The Ritz-Carlton, Tokyo

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

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**DAY 2 TOKYO | TSUKIJI FISH MARKET & ASAKUSA KANNON TEMPLE**
After your welcome briefing, proceed to Tsukiji Fish Market, a bustling hub of Japanese daily life and the source of most Tokyo inhabitants’ seafood. Continue to the Shitamachi Museum to view historical reproductions of the living spaces of artisans and merchants who once occupied Tokyo’s lowlands, and learn about their remarkable culture. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, pausing in the tiny shops of Nakamise-dori. The colorful pagoda-style temple was completed in 645 and is dedicated to Kannon, the goddess of mercy in several East Asian spiritual traditions. Finish your day with a photo stop at the Imperial Palace Plaza. Tonight, join your fellow guests for a welcome dinner.
The Ritz-Carlton, Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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**DAY 3 TOKYO | LIFE OF A SAMURAI**
Today, start at the Samurai Museum, where you learn about the customs of this elite-warrior class and get an up-close look at an authentic collection of their exotic armor and weaponry. Then, pass by Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo’s answer to Times Square, to watch the downright mesmerizing multi-directional foot traffic. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant before proceeding to Tokyo’s vibrant Harajuku district, where the city’s youth gather to see and be seen, sporting colorful, eclectic fashions. Also visit Omotesando Street, an elegant row of upscale shops offering chic ambience and dazzling façades. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.
The Ritz-Carlton, Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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**DAY 4 HAKONE | TRADITIONAL RYOKAN**
Travel to Hakone, among Japan’s most popular hot-spring destinations, and view the forested slopes of Hakone National Park, an area encompassing coastlines, mountains, lakes and more than 1,000 volcanic islands. Board an aerial tram rising above the wooded slopes for inspiring views of Mount Fuji. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before strolling the grassy hillside of Hakone’s Open Air Museum. Admire the impressive contemporary sculptures and artwork on display, including masterpieces by Henry Moore and Rodin. The museum also features one of the world’s finest Picasso exhibits, presenting visitors with some 300 works by the cubist master. Tonight, enjoy unparalleled service and traditional Japanese cuisine at Gôra Kadan, a top-rated ryokan (traditional inn), which is also your elegant and authentic accommodation for the night.
Gôra Kadan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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**DAY 5 OSAKA | DOTONBORI DISTRICT DELICACIES**
After breakfast at your ryokan, visit the Okada Museum of Art to view its stunning collection of paintings, ceramics, lacquerware and bronzes from Japan, Korea and China. Then, Ride Like a Local by bullet train to Osaka. Historically known as a merchant city, it is today renowned as Japan’s undisputed culinary capital, where diners indulge in everything from octopus dumplings to Okonomi-yaki — a battered, grilled concoction of chopped cabbage, meat or seafood, and seaweed, topped with mayonnaise. This evening, set out on a foodie tour in the popular Dotonbori district, sampling dishes from the brilliantly lighted and gastronomically creative restaurants that line the street.
The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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**DAY 6 NARA | INSIGHTS INTO A PROFOUNDLY SPIRITUAL HERITAGE**
Travel to Nara, Japan’s first capital, to visit Todai-ji, a temple complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains the largest bronze Buddha statue in Japan. Proceed to Nara Park, home to hundreds of deer, venerated here as divine spirits, which you have the opportunity feed by hand. Complete your Nara excursion with a visit to celebrated Kasuga Taisha Shrine and experience a Shinto ceremony firsthand. Pause for lunch at a local restaurant before strolling the grassy hillsides of Hakone National Park, an area encompassing coastlines, mountains, lakes and more than 1,000 volcanic islands. Board an aerial tram rising above the wooded slopes for inspiring views of Mount Fuji. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before strolling the grassy hillside of Hakone’s Open Air Museum. Admire the impressive contemporary sculptures and artwork on display, including masterpieces by Henry Moore and Rodin. The museum also features one of the world’s finest Picasso exhibits, presenting visitors with some 300 works by the cubist master. Tonight, enjoy unparalleled service and traditional Japanese cuisine at Gôra Kadan, a top-rated ryokan (traditional inn), which is also your elegant and authentic accommodation for the night.
Gôra Kadan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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**DAY 7 KYOTO | THE GOLDEN PAVILION & BAMBOO GROVE**
Travel early this morning to contemplate the iconic Zen rock garden at Ryoan-ji, the perfect spot for a meditative moment, and discover the glittering Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion) — covered with gold leaf, surrounded by green gardens and casting its delicate reflection in the tranquil pond beside it. After a traditional bento box lunch, explore the Arashiyama neighborhood, including the garden of Tenryu-ji Temple. Later, bask in the magical atmosphere of Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, strolling along a winding path as sunlight filters down through towering bamboo shoots — considered by many a healing experience.
Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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**DAY 8 KYOTO | IN THE TRADITIONAL HOME OF A BELOVED ARTIST**
Visit Shogunzuka Temple for stunning views of Kyoto, and then continue to the home and studio of the late Kawai Kanjiro, one of Kyoto’s most famous potters. In Kanjiro’s beautiful home, view his own creations as well as his personal collection of ceramics, sculptures and wood carvings. Proceed to a temple, where you experience the art of the tea ceremony, noting its refined sense of hospitality and etiquette, which date to the time of the samurai. Tonight, savor traditional Japanese cuisine, while an attending geiko (as a geisha is known in Kyoto) and maiko (apprentice geisha) dance, sing, pour sake and converse about their fascinating lives.
Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

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**DAY 9 DEPART KYOTO**
After breakfast, transfer to Kansai International Airport or Itami Airport, both located just outside of Osaka, for your flight home, or begin a post-tour extension to Hiroshima.

Extensions

Post-Tour Extension: Hiroshima

3 days from $3,695
Single Supplement from $1,195

DAY 1
Following a morning at leisure in Kyoto, embark on an afternoon exploration of the historic town of Uji, including the Byodoin Temple. Travel to Osaka and check in to your hotel this evening.

The St. Regis Osaka

DAY 2
Go by bullet train to Hiroshima. Spend the day visiting the Peace Memorial Park and Museum. See the iconic Itsukushima Shrine, before returning to Osaka by train.

The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3
Transfer to the airport and depart.

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Prices</th>
<th>Single Supplement</th>
<th>Availability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21 - Oct 29, 2019</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
<td>$5,495</td>
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<td>Nov 04 - Nov 12, 2019</td>
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Optional post-tour extension available on this departure.

Journey Details

This journey includes some long walks.
Minimum age is 10 years.
First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.
Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 8.
Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).