



Japan

Discovering the Land of the Rising Sun

Japan is fascinating and impressive, Western and yet so very different, unique and multi-layered, and so much more! Tokyo and Kyoto – it's in these two cities that Japan's opposites converge. Austere Zen gardens and flamboyant street life, ornate wooden houses and ultra-modern skyscrapers, traditional tea ceremonies, and conveyor belt sushi restaurants – contrasts go hand in hand in Japan. And in between, glimpses of the Japanese Alps and the sacred Fuji-san.

- Travel Japanese style – out and about on the **Shinkansen**
- Keeping up with the latest trends in the **metropolis of Tokyo**
- Fascinating high culture – **Kyoto**
- Living among monks – **overnight stay in a temple** with meditation and bathing culture
- Introduction to the art of **sushi making**

10 days

19 Oct. – 28 Oct. 2024

from € **3429,-**

Japan: Discovering the Land of the Rising Sun

Day 1, Sat, 19.10.2024: Arrival in Tokyo

Individual arrival in Tokyo (flights not included in this Marco Polo Reisen tour). The day is free for you to spend at your leisure and acclimatise.

Day 2, Sun, 20.10.2024: Tokyo – Osaka

We leave Tokyo for the time being and embark on a two-and-a-half-hour journey on the Shinkansen to Osaka. Welcome to big city life! From the observation deck of the Umeda Sky Building, we get a first impression of the city. We then join in the action – in the high street, it's shop till you drop! You're sure to find a quirky souvenir or two along the way. "Osaka is known for having the best street food in all of Japan," says our guide enthusiastically and shows us where to find the best takoyaki – mmh, delicious! As soon as it gets dark, we move on to the **nightlife district of Dotonbori**. In one of the many cosy izakayas – Japanese pubs – we raise a toast to our journey with hot **sake** over dinner. B/D

Day 3, Mon, 21.10.2024: Osaka – Koyasan

We set off early by train through the mountains and take the funicular for the last stretch of the journey. In the afternoon, we visit Mount Kōya, the **sacred mountain**. Our guide takes us on a tour of the vast, mysterious Okunoin cemetery. Any Japanese Buddhist of standing has at least one lock of hair buried here. Continue to the Garan temple complex. Can our mini group handle the revolving pagoda?



In the evening, we're invited to take part in the monks' meditation session. We'll sleep on futons and tatami mats, learn about Japanese bathing culture in the communal bath (separated by gender), and be woken up by the gong for morning prayers. B/D

Day 4, Tue, 22.10.2024: Koyasan – Nara – Kyoto

Breakfast, traditionally vegetarian, is served in your room, kneeling at low tables and, most importantly, accompanied by Japanese tea. We say "goodbye" to the spiritual heart of Japan and continue by bus to Nara. We visit the gigantic Todai Temple with its enormous bronze Buddha inside and it takes our breath away. Who can fit through the legendary opening the size of Buddha's nostril? The reward for this feat is eternal enlightenment. In the afternoon, we continue by bus to **Kyoto**, the former imperial city and cultural metropolis. Fancy a stroll through the geisha neighbourhood of Gion later on? B

Day 5, Wed, 23.10.2024: Kyoto

Temple hopping in Kyoto. We start with the most well-known site, the Golden Pavilion, which shines majestically from the gardens. We then enter a world of sand and stones: Ryōan-ji Temple is home to one of Japan's most famous rock gardens. Next, we head to Tenryū-ji Temple in Arashiyama. On a walk through the beautifully landscaped garden, we discover streams, small hills, and trees in a variety of colours. Kyoto's bamboo forest is also located in the area. We walk through an emerald green tunnel as the sunlight filters through the trees. There's really something magical about the way the light shimmers on the forest floor! B

Day 6, Thu, 24.10.2024: Kyoto

Today we visit **Nijo Castle**. At **Nishiki Market**, we sample local delicacies. The afternoon is free for you to spend at your leisure. B

Day 7, Fri, 25.10.2024: Kyoto – Tokyo

Our programme today begins with the Heian Shrine and the Imperial Palace. Afterwards, we indulge our taste buds as we learn the rules of Japanese **sushi** making at a local restaurant. Reinvigorated, we take the Shinkansen to **Tokyo**. We arrive at the hotel in Tokyo in the afternoon. In the evening, we take the opportunity to explore the open-minded neighbourhood of Shinjuku Ni-chōme, Tokyo's largest **gay district**, accompanied by a local guide (English-speaking). B/L

Day 8, Sat, 26.10.2024: Tokyo

Get ready for the **Tour de Tokyo**. We can only scratch the surface of what this megacity has to offer. Our first adventure: riding the subway. Will we really be packed into the trains like sardines? We start in Asakusa where a visit to the beautiful Senso-ji is an

absolute must. A practical secondary benefit: the street leading to the shrine is the souvenir mile par excellence, with kimonos and fans on sale at every corner. Caution – many things sold here are "made in China". From the giant Tokyo Skytree television tower, we have a breathtaking view over the mega metropolis. Afterwards, we visit the National Museum in Ueno where everyone is free to stay as long as they'd like. B

Day 9, Sun, 27.10.2024: Tokyo

In Harajuku, we visit the famous **Meiji Shrine** and then dive into Japan's pop culture: teenagers in manga costumes and crazy fashion boutiques on Takeshita-dori. We won't find any cats in Cat Street in Shibuya, but we will find lots of unique shops, second-hand stores, and cafés. Your VIP box seat at Starbucks on the corner is the best location for a photo of Shibuya Crossing, probably the busiest intersection in the world. The afternoon is free for you to spend at your leisure – with a few tips from your guide, of course. In the evening, we'll have a farewell dinner together at a local restaurant. B/D

Day 10, Mon, 28.10.2024: Return flight from Tokyo

Sayonara, Japan! The express bus takes us to the airport. Individual return flight (flights not included in this Marco Polo Reisen tour). B

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

On the road in Japan

On this tour, we'll be using public transport. This means that for most of the trip, you'll have to carry your own luggage the short distance from the station to the hotel. About the accommodation: the lodgings on this tour range from typical mid-range Japanese hotels with relatively small single rooms to an overnight stay in a temple. Here you'll sleep on futon beds on tatami mats. Demand currently exceeds hotel supply in Japan, which means that longer journeys to the city centre may be unavoidable.

Flights

Arrival and departure flights are not included in the tour price; however, we would be happy to arrange your flights (rates on request).

Hotels

| Place | Nights | Subject to change | |
|---------|--------|---------------------|--------------|
| | | Hotel | Local rating |
| Tokyo | 1 | Remm Roppongi | *** |
| Osaka | 1 | Agora Place | *** |
| Koyasan | 1 | Honno-in | - |
| Kyoto | 3 | Daiwa Roynet Ekimae | *** |
| Tokyo | 3 | Remm Roppongi | *** |

Travel documents and vaccinations

German nationals require a passport that is valid for at least six months past the end of their stay. A visa is not required. Different entry requirements may apply to citizens of other countries. Please check with the appropriate consulate. Current information on entry requirements and vaccination regulations can be found on the Internet or by contacting the Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) or your booking agent.

Climate

Average maximum temperatures in °C:

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Tokyo | 11 | 11 | 15 | 20 | 24 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 25 | 22 | 17 | 12 |
| Kyoto | 08 | 11 | 16 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 33 | 33 | 28 | 23 | 16 | 12 |

Japanese bath

- Breakfast
- Welcome dinner in Osaka on day 2
- Vegetarian dinner at the temple hostel
- Sushi making class in Kyoto
- Farewell dinner in Tokyo
- Luggage transfer service from Tokyo – Osaka (during the day), Kyoto – Tokyo (during the day); only light hand luggage available for the overnight stay on day 3
- English-speaking Marco Polo tour guide in Japan
- Meditation in the temple
- Guided tour through the gay district of Tokyo
- Entrance fees according to the itinerary

Climate-friendly travel with Marco Polo

This tour is carbon-neutral thanks to CO2e offsetting (www.agb-mp.com/co2).

Price per person from €

10 days

| Date | SGL | DBL disc. |
|---------------------|------|-----------|
| 19.10. – 28.10.2024 | 3429 | 250 |

Minimum number of participants: 8 people; maximum number of participants: 16 people. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the Tour Operator reserves the right to withdraw from the travel contract no later than 21 days before the start of the tour. **Tour Operator:** Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich. **General travel conditions and suitability of travel for persons with reduced mobility:** www.agb-mp.com. **Payment/secured payment certificate:** Payment is only due upon presentation of the secured payment certificate (sent with the travel confirmation) in accordance with Section 651 r (3) of the German Civil Code (BGB). A deposit of 10% of the tour price, up to a maximum of €500 per person, is due upon conclusion of the contract. The remaining travel price is due on the 20th day before departure or at the latest upon receipt of the travel documents. **Travel insurances:** No travel insurance is included in the tour price. We recommend purchasing travel cancellation insurance from the following provider: www.agb-mp.com/versicherung. **Package travel rights:** The standard notification form on your rights in relation to a package holiday can be found at www.agb-mp.com/pauschalreiserechte. **Data protection:** Marco Polo Reisen processes customer data for the purpose of travel implementation and contract execution (Art. 6 (1) (b) of the European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) and for the purpose of advertising its own services (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR). Detailed information and the contact details of our Data Protection Officer: www.agb-mp.com/datenschutz. You may withdraw your consent to the use of your data for advertising purposes at any time: Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich, Tel.: +49 (0)89/50060-411, E-mail: sondergruppen@marco-polo-reisen.com.

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