



# Graham's trip to Japan (with Mary and Bill 2058046)

OCTOBER 2023

*A*UDLEY

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# Welcome

Dear Graham,

You're ready to travel. Everything you need for your trip is within these pages, including your confirmed itinerary.

The *Getting assistance* section explains how you can contact us or our local agents in the rare event of any issues arising while you're away.

Your *Itinerary summary* includes all of your relevant booking information as well as any contact numbers you might need.

In *Travel advice*, you'll find more important details relating to your trip, such as health advice and general entry requirements. Here you'll also find a link to our online tool where you can check general entry requirements, including Covid-19 and visa information.

We also share our *Insider knowledge* about the places you're visiting, including restaurant recommendations, so you can make the most of your time.

Enjoy your travels,

**Malcolm Wellby**

Japan and South Korea Senior Specialist

# Award-winning travel



Creating your trip means more to us than simply meeting your expectations. We find every opportunity to go beyond what you were anticipating, with our approach to getting to know you and fine-tuning your experience exactly to how you want to see the world.

Our commitment to giving you the best possible experiences accompanied by unbeatable service is reflected in our excellent Trustpilot rating and from the many awards we've collected over the years and continue to receive.

Whether voted for by you or the industry experts, the awards we've won also acknowledge the expertise of our specialists and the passion they pour into every trip. It's their knowledge and enthusiasm for the destinations they love that will shape your own adventure.



# Getting assistance

Your itinerary reference **2066341/6**

All the arrangements are in place for you to have a fantastic trip. Although it's extremely unlikely anything unexpected will happen while you're away, we're here for you if you need us. If you find you need assistance, we'll do everything we can to resolve the matter quickly, supported by our local partners.

If you do need any help, we ask you to follow these steps.

## **1. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GUIDE, OPERATOR OR OUR LOCAL PARTNER**

If you have a local guide, they're often best placed to resolve the issue on the spot. If you have a concern about a specific arrangement, for example you're running late or can't find a meeting place, please contact the operator. If you have a larger concern about your trip then please contact our local partner. Their English-speaking representatives can help you straightaway in the local time zone.

To help you find this information, this travel document includes a section, ***Your itinerary summary***, which lists contact details for the arrangements we've made for your trip, and you'll find two types of contacts:

**operator** – the company directly running the activity or transfer

**local partner** – looks after your overall arrangements on our behalf

# Getting assistance

Your itinerary reference **2066341/6**

## **2. CONTACT US**

If the problem is still unresolved or a bigger concern, you can get in touch with us by phone and we'll do all we can to help you.

It's best to call us within our office hours, when we're most equipped to help.

You can contact your specialist directly or call the general office numbers below.

### **Our office hours are:**

Monday - Thursday 9am-8pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sunday 10am-6pm

### **Office telephone**

**+441993838450** (During office hours)

# Getting assistance

Your itinerary reference **2066341/6**

## **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

If you encounter a significant problem, or an emergency happens, outside our office hours, you can call our emergency number below. It will take you through to an answerphone where you should leave the information bulleted below. Our on-call Duty Manager will call you back.

- Your name
- Your itinerary number
- The lead client name on your booking
- Your contact telephone details
- When you'll be available for us to call
- An overview of the problem

### **It's important to note:**

For medical emergencies, you should call the relevant emergency telephone number on your insurance policy first, then call our emergency number.

Duty Manager calls may come from a UK, US, or unknown number.

### **Emergency number**

**+44 1993 838 837** (Outside office hours)

# Getting assistance

Your itinerary reference **2066341/6**

## **CONTACTING YOU WHILE ABROAD**

From experience, we've found it's best for your family or friends to contact our office with a message, if they need to get hold of you. We'll then route their message to you by the best method, depending on where you are at the time. If the matter's important, we can usually provide confirmation that the message has reached you.



## Your itinerary summary

As an easy reference point, you'll find everything we've arranged for your trip listed chronologically below. You can see a confirmation of what we've booked for you, along with any booking references, meeting times, and who to contact should you need any help from our local partners while you're away. If specific times aren't listed below, they'll be confirmed during your trip. Exact timings may change and any updates will be shared by our local partners.

Date	Your arrangements	Contact	Additional information
Day 1  02nd October 2023	Flight	<b>Depart:</b> 02nd October 2023 13:20 London Heathrow Airport (Terminal 5) <b>Arrive:</b> 03rd October 2023 10:55 Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 3) Travel Class: Premium Economy	<b>Airline:</b> British Airways  TZ83KB
Day 2  03rd October 2023	Transfer	Welcome to Japan	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633  <b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
	Transfer	Train tickets in Japan	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Transfer	Travel card: PASMO	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Transfer	Pocket wifi for your trip	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Accommodation	<b>Tokyo</b> Shiba Park Hotel  1 x Renovated room - double - Breakfast included  <b>Check-in:</b> 03rd October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 07th October 2023	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633  <b>Hotel address:</b> 1 Chome-5-10 Shibakoen, Tokyo, 105-0011, Japan  <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81334334141	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 3  04th October 2023	Excursion	<b>Tokyo</b> Half day Orientation	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. 09:00 Meet your guide, Ms Junko Dogauchi (Tel: 090-3102-8921) in the hotel lobby this morning. Please make sure to be ready 10 minutes prior to departure.

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 6  07th October 2023	Rail	<p><b>Rail journey - Bullet train with your ticket</b></p> <p><b>Depart:</b> 10:37 Shinagawa Station</p> <p><b>Arrive:</b> 12:44 Kyoto Station</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan</p> <p><b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. Make your way to JR Hamamatsucho station platform 3, and take any Yamanote Line (outer-loop) train to Shinagawa station (approx. 6 minutes). Upon arrival at Shinagawa station, make your way to the bullet train platforms 23 &amp; 24. Your train will depart from one of these platforms, please check departure boards for exact train information. At Kyoto station, take subway Karasuma Line train to Marutamachi station (approx. 7 minutes).</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
	Accommodation	<p><b>Kyoto</b> Hyatt Place Kyoto</p> <p>1 x Standard king - Breakfast included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 07th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 11th October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 240 Shoshoicho, Nakagyo-Ward, Kyoto, Japan, 604-0862 <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81 75251 1234</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>
Day 7  08th October 2023	Excursion	<p><b>Kyoto</b> Half day tour: Temples, geisha and backstreets of Kyoto</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. 14:00 Meet your guide, Ms Mikari Furuhashi (Tel: 090-9174-4838) in your hotel lobby this afternoon. Please make sure to be ready 10 minutes prior to departure.</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 10  11th October 2023	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Bullet train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> 09:43 Kyoto Station <b>Arrive:</b> 10:33 Himeji Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Bullet train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> 14:36 Himeji Station <b>Arrive:</b> 15:02 Okayama Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Accommodation	<b>Okayama</b> Mitsui Garden Okayama  1 x Moderate Queen - double - Breakfast included  <b>Check-in:</b> 11th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 13th October 2023	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633 <b>Hotel address:</b> 1-7 Ekimoto-machi,, Kita-ku,, Okayama,, 700-0024, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81862351131	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 11  12th October 2023	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Local train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> TBD Okayama Station <b>Arrive:</b> TBD Kurashiki Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. Please take JR Sanyo Line Local train from Okayama station to Kurashiki station (approx. 18 minutes).
	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Local train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> TBD Kurashiki Station <b>Arrive:</b> TBD Okayama Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. Please take JR Sanyo Line Local train from Kurashiki station to Okayama station (approx. 18 minutes).
Day 12  13th October 2023	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Bullet train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> 10:37 Okayama Station <b>Arrive:</b> 12:18 Hakata Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements	Contact	Additional information
	<p>Accommodation</p> <p><b>Fukuoka</b> ANA Crowne Plaza Fukuoka</p> <p>1 x Standard room - double - Breakfast included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 13th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 15th October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 3-chme-3-3 Hakata Ekimae, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, 812-0011, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81924717111</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>



## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
<p>Day 14</p> <p>15th October 2023</p>	<p>Car hire pick-up</p>	<p><b>Fukuoka</b> Car hire <b>Pick-up:</b> 09:00 Orix Fukuoka Hakata Station Hakata Exit Fukuoka</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633 <b>Pick-up address:</b> 2-3-24 Hakataeki-mae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Pref. <b>Depot tel:</b> +81 92 411 8694</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. Reference Number: AG4916488 09:00 Collect your rental car from ORIX Rent-A-Car, Hakata Eki Hakata-guchi Rental Site. No voucher included, please arrive at the specified location and show your passport, driving license, international driving license (if required) or other necessary documents for you to drive in Japan, at the counter. Rental is under SWANSON.</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements	Contact	Additional information
	<p>Accommodation</p> <p><b>Nagasaki</b> Hotel New Nagasaki</p> <p>1 x Standard room - twin - Breakfast included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 15th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 18th October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 14-5 Daikoku-machi, Nagasaki 850-0057, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81958268000</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>
<p>Day 17</p> <p>18th October 2023</p>	<p>Accommodation</p> <p><b>Kumamoto</b> Crowne Plaza ANA Kumamoto New Sky</p> <p>1 x Standard twin - twin - Breakfast included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 18th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 19th October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 2 Higashi Amidaji-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi, 860-8575, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81963542111</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 18  19th October 2023	Accommodation	<p><b>Kurokawa</b> Hozantei Ryokan</p> <p>1 x Standard Japanese room - futon - Breakfast and dinner included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 19th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 20th October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 6346 Manganji, Minami-Oguni, 869-2402, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81967440059</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>
Day 19  20th October 2023	Accommodation	<p><b>Kagoshima</b> Solaria Hotel Kagoshima</p> <p>1 x Standard - double - Breakfast included</p> <p><b>Check-in:</b> 20th October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 22nd October 2023</p>	<p><b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633</p> <p><b>Hotel address:</b> 890-0053 Kagoshima, Chuo-cho 11, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +810992105555</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements	Contact	Additional information
	<p>Car hire drop-off</p> <p><b>Kagoshima</b> <b>Drop-off:</b> 19:30 Orix Kagoshima-Chuo Station</p>	<p><b>Drop-off address:</b> 4-1 Chuo-cho, Kagoshima <b>Depot tel:</b> +81 99 256 0082</p>	<p><b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105. Reference Number: AG4916488 09:00 Collect your rental car from ORIX Rent-A-Car, Hakata Eki Hakata-guchi Rental Site. No voucher included, please arrive at the specified location and show your passport, driving license, international driving license (if required) or other necessary documents for you to drive in Japan, at the counter. Rental is under SWANSON.</p>

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements		Contact	Additional information
Day 21  22nd October 2023	Rail	<b>Rail journey - Bullet train with your ticket</b> <b>Depart:</b> 10:32 Kagoshima Station <b>Arrive:</b> 11:51 Hakata Station	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
	Accommodation	<b>Fukuoka</b> ANA Crowne Plaza Fukuoka  1 x Standard room - double - Breakfast included  <b>Check-in:</b> 22nd October 2023 <b>Check-out:</b> 23rd October 2023	<b>Local partner:</b> Exo Travel Japan <b>Emergency contact:</b> +81 345208633 <b>Hotel address:</b> 3-chme-3-3 Hakata Ekimae, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, 812-0011, Japan <b>Hotel tel:</b> +81924717111	<b>Booking ref:</b> TKE2217105.
Day 22  23rd October 2023	Flight	<b>Depart:</b> 23rd October 2023 10:10 Fukuoka Airport (Terminal D) <b>Arrive:</b> 23rd October 2023 11:45 Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 1) Travel Class: Economy	<b>Airline:</b> Japan Airlines	TZ83KB

## Your itinerary summary

Date	Your arrangements	Contact	Additional information
	<p data-bbox="293 300 347 322">Flight</p> <p data-bbox="459 300 836 356"><b>Depart:</b> 23rd October 2023 13:15 Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 3)</p> <p data-bbox="459 367 836 423"><b>Arrive:</b> 23rd October 2023 19:55 London Heathrow Airport (Terminal 5)</p> <p data-bbox="459 434 756 456">Travel Class: Premium Economy</p>	<p data-bbox="909 300 1123 322"><b>Airline:</b> British Airways</p>	<p data-bbox="1232 300 1315 322">TZ83KB</p>

# Flight details

## **FLIGHTS ARRANGED BY AUDLEY TRAVEL AND LOCAL PARTNERS**

Your flight details and airline reference numbers (where applicable) are below.

### **Flights booked by Audley**

Your flight details and airline reference numbers are below. We don't supply physical tickets — you'll only need the airline reference number, along with your passport, to check in for your flights, either online or at the airport. You can find out if the airlines you're flying with offer online check-in by reading the flight information further on in this section. Your boarding passes will be issued by the airline once you've completed your online check-in, or at the airport.

### **Where flight tickets are issued by our local agents**

If any of the following flight tickets have been issued by our local agents, these may be e-tickets, which means you'll only need your passport at check-in, or paper tickets, which will be given to you in your destination.

## **ARRIVAL TIME**

Any flights that aren't same-day arrival are accompanied by (+1) to show they arrive on the following day.

# Flight details

## MR STEPHEN GRAHAM COPINGER LAWRENCE

Date	Flight no.	Issued by	Operator	From	Departs	To	Arrives	Ref
02-10-2023	BA5	Audley	British Airways	London Heathrow Airport (Terminal 5) Travel Class: Premium Economy	13:20	Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 3)	10:55 (+1)	TZ83KB
23-10-2023	BA4606	Audley	Japan Airlines	Fukuoka Airport (Terminal D) Travel Class: Economy	10:10	Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 1)	11:45	TZ83KB
23-10-2023	BA6	Audley	British Airways	Tokyo Haneda International Airport (Terminal 3) Travel Class: Premium Economy	13:15	London Heathrow Airport (Terminal 5)	19:55	TZ83KB



# Flight details

## **IN-FLIGHT MEALS**

No in flight meal preferences have been arranged for you. If you do have specific requirements please let us know.

# Flight details

## SEAT REQUESTS AND LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

You can find the seat information for your flights below, along with basic information regarding your luggage allowance.

You will find more detailed information for both seating and luggage in the following pages, under the 'General Flight Information' section and the section titled 'Specific Information' for the operating airline.

Name	From	To	Seat Number	Baggage
Stephen Lawrence	London Heathrow Airport	Tokyo Haneda International Airport	-	2 bags
Stephen Lawrence	Fukuoka Airport	Tokyo Haneda International Airport	-	2 bags
Stephen Lawrence	Tokyo Haneda International Airport	London Heathrow Airport	-	2 bags

# Flight information

## **AIRLINE SEATING**

Airlines can sometimes change their seating plans for reasons beyond our control, which might affect any seat requests we've made for your flights. We understand how important it is to get 'good' seats on the aircraft, and we'll do everything we can to secure the seats you want. However, all airlines reserve the right to amend or cancel seat requests — pre-paid or otherwise — even at this late stage before travel. As such, we always advise an early check-in.

### **British Airways airline seating**

If you haven't already pre-booked and paid for your seat(s), you can still do this on BA's website. Visit [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) and go to the 'manage' tab at the top of the page. You'll need your airline reference code, which you'll find in your flight details above.

If you're a silver or gold member of the BA Executive Club, or a sapphire or emerald member of the Oneworld Alliance, you can select your seat for free. As a bronze member of the BA Executive Club or a ruby member of the Oneworld Alliance, you're able to select your seat for free up to seven days before you depart.

# Flight information

## **Japan Airlines airline seating**

If you haven't already pre-booked your seat(s), you can still do this on the Japan Airlines website. Visit [www.jal.com](http://www.jal.com) and go to the 'manage booking' tab at the top of the page. You'll need your flight details and airline reference code, which are shown above.

Please note that Japan Airlines may charge a fee to pre-book seats if you're booked in economy class.

## **LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES**

There may be a sizable difference in the luggage allowance between your international flights and any internal flights you're taking, particularly if you fly in a premium cabin internationally and economy class internally. If you're taking any light-aircraft flights, your luggage allowance is likely to be restricted and there may be rules around the type of luggage you can take on board.

The best place to check the rules around your luggage allowance is on the airline's website, and the following section tells you how to do this for the airlines you're flying with. When you first visit an airline website, check that the flag and country in the header represent your departure point to make sure you view the correct information for your journey.

# Flight information

## **British Airways luggage allowances**

Luggage allowance with BA varies depending on the class of your ticket and where you're flying to. You can see your luggage allowance for your flights on BA's website. Visit [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) and go to the 'manage' tab at the top of the page. You'll need your airline reference code, from your flight details above.

## **Japan Airlines luggage allowances**

Luggage allowance with Japan Airlines varies depending on the class of your ticket and where you're flying to. You can see your luggage allowance for your flight(s) on the Japan Airlines website. Visit [www.jal.com](http://www.jal.com) and select the 'manage booking' tab at the top of the page. You'll need your airline reference code, from your flight details above.

## **CHECK IN**

When you receive your e-tickets for your flights, please review the flight times so you're aware of the most up-to-date information, as some timings may have changed. We recommend that you allow yourself enough time to check in for your international flights — at least three hours before departure. You'll find more information about checking in with the airlines you're flying with during your trip further on in this section.

# Flight information

## **British Airways check in**

To save time at the airport, we recommend checking into your flight(s) online, which you can do up to 24 hours in advance via BA's website: [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com). You'll need to enter your surname and your British Airways airline reference code, from your flight details above. If you haven't reserved your seat(s) in advance, you can select your seat(s) free of charge when you check in online.

Once you've checked in online, you can use the automated fast-bag-drop service when you arrive at the airport.

## **Japan Airlines check in**

To save time at the airport, we recommend checking into your flight(s) online, which you can do up to 24 hours before departure via the Japan Airlines website: [www.jal.com](http://www.jal.com). You'll need to enter your name and your Japan Airlines flight details, which are shown above. If you haven't reserved your seat(s) in advance, you can select your seat(s) free of charge when you check in online.

## **DEPARTURE TAX**

Usually, departure tax is included in your flight tickets, but some countries require you to pay an extra amount on departure.

# Flight information

## **MISSED DEPARTURE**

If you can't make a flight for any reason while you're on your trip, please let us or our local agents know as soon as possible. This is because, in most cases, the airline will cancel all the remaining flights you have booked with it throughout your itinerary.

## **CARBON OFFSETTING**

Every year, we contribute to the Climate Impact Partners, as a way of offsetting the carbon emissions from our specialists' research trips. If you'd also like to offset your flights, you can talk to your specialist, who'll arrange it for you.

# Flight information



# Detailed itinerary

**MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023**

 **YOUR TRIP BEGINS**

**Head to the airport for your international flight**

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 **FLIGHTS**

**London Heathrow Airport to Tokyo Haneda International Airport**

**Flight number:** BA5

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**Airline:** British Airways

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**Operated by:** British Airways

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**Dep:** 13:20

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**Arr:** 10:55 (+1)

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**Class:** Premium Economy

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**Passengers:** Stephen Graham Copinger Lawrence

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**TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2023**

 **WELCOME TO JAPAN**

**Meet and greet guide and shared airport transfer**

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# Detailed itinerary

Welcome to Japan! In order to start your trip on the right foot, you will be met at the arrival area of the airport by your airport representative. Please wait by the arrivals area and look for your assistant who will be holding a sign with your name on. Your assistant will escort you through the terminal and to the meeting point for the shared transfer into the city. Before bidding you farewell, the rep will hand you an **infopack** too which will include maps, guides, any applicable hotel vouchers and private line rail tickets too.

## TRAIN TICKETS IN JAPAN

### Ordinary class train tickets

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You will have train tickets included in your welcome pack you will receive upon arrival to the country.

The tickets will be booked according to your train timetable. Should you miss your scheduled train, you simply need to take the next train but sit in the unreserved section. The ticket will be valid for the whole day.

## TRAVEL CARD: PASMO

### **preloaded with 2500 yen, provided on arrival (one card per person)**

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Your IC travel card (which may have the name PASMO or SUICA) is a smart card that can be used in place of a metro or bus ticket (or cash), helping to make your travel experience smoother and more convenient. In addition to using the same card on trains and buses, you can also use your IC card to purchase goods and services from stores that accept electronic money payments.

## Detailed itinerary

Increasingly more cities around Japan are being added to the network so not only in Tokyo but in many major cities such as Kyoto and Osaka it is possible to travel by bus or train simply by touching the card to the card reader on ticket gates and buses. The card is also valid for all Hiroshima trams, buses and Miyajima ferry.

The cards can also be used for small purchases in convenience stores and at the majority of abundant vending machines scattered around the country. Therefore, you need not worry if you haven't managed to deplete the value of your card before the end of your trip as you can use it on a quick bite. Keep an eye out for the PASMO/SUICA logo in convenience stores and on vending machines.

The card is reusable and can be topped up. Simply swipe the card against the reader at ticket barriers or tills and pass through. You must also swipe the card when you exit the station or bus.

Please note that after you have finished using your card you can return the IC card to get a JPY 500 refund, plus any outstanding credit. Please ask at your nearest station, and they will be able to let you know where the nearest PASMO/SUICA office is.

### POCKET WIFI FOR YOUR TRIP

#### **Rental included**

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You will be provided with an extremely convenient pocket wi-fi router at your first hotel, providing 4G internet all over Japan. This is great for accessing maps, train timetables and your Self Guide app on the go. We will arrange for your wi-fi device to be delivered straight to your first hotel, so you do not need to worry about lots of paperwork or hassle on arrival. Included in the pack will be the router itself, charger, carrying pouch and a spare battery. There will also be a prepaid

# Detailed itinerary

envelope for you to post the router back at the end of your trip - your hotel or ryokan team can do this for you.

Your pocket wi-fi will be sent to your first hotel and should be handed to you upon check-in - please prompt the staff if not. In the pack there will be comprehensive instructions on how to get everything set up. There is no data usage limitation on the pocket wi-fi and you can connect up to 10 devices simultaneously.

## Returning your pocket wi-fi

The pocket wi-fi will come with a prepaid envelope. Please hold on to this for the duration of your trip as you will need this to return it.

We recommend placing the wi-fi into the prepaid envelope on the morning of your departure, and handing it in to the concierge/front desk for the staff to mail it on your behalf. Alternatively, you can post the envelope in any mailbox, and all airports have post boxes, but please note that **there are no post boxes to be found after security - you must ensure you have posted it beforehand.**

If you fail to return the pocket wi-fi there will be a charge.



## SHIBA PARK HOTEL

**Location:** Tokyo

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**Check-in date:** 03/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 07/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Renovated room - double - Breakfast included

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# Detailed itinerary

**Our rating:** Medium

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**Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Oedo Line:** From **Daimon Station**, take **Exit A6** and head straight towards Tokyo Tower and Zojoji Temple.

At the first stoplight you will see a Family Mart on the right hand side of the street. Turn right and continue straight for about 3 minutes. The hotel will be on the left-hand side of the street.

Please note that Shiba Park Hotel and Shiba Park Hotel 151 share a lobby and reception desk. You will check in at the reception desk inside the Shiba Park Hotel 151.

The nearest JR station is **Hamamatsu-cho**, which is approximately a six minute taxi ride from the hotel.

## **The address is:**

1 Chome-5-10 Shibakoen, Minato City, Tokyo,  
105-0011 1-5-10

**WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2023**

 **HALF DAY ORIENTATION**

## **Private excursion with your guide**

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Your guide will meet you today in the hotel lobby to run through your trip and offer any local advice so you can enjoy the country with confidence. The guide will explain your itinerary in more detail and answer any questions you might have.

# Detailed itinerary

You will have some time after this to get a feel for the immediate vicinity with the help of your guide who will happily point out some useful points of interest. Depending on your interests and requests these might include **recommended restaurants, ATM locations** and shopping areas, where the **nearest subway station** is and **how to use your IC card** to make the most of your time in the city.



## FREE TIME SUGGESTION: IMPERIAL PALACE AREA

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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As the home of Japan's Emperor, the inner grounds of Tokyo Imperial Palace are not for public eyes. However, the grounds have an open-arms approach, beckoning you to stroll the wide avenues, admire the carefully maintained lawns, and seek out remnants of original moats and watchtowers.

## OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

### The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

Although it's possible for you to join a guided tour of some of the inner palace grounds, we wouldn't recommend doing so based on our experience. We prefer the more interesting East Gardens, or Higashi Gyoen, that are scattered with remnants of original moats, walls, entrance gates, and watchtowers from

## Detailed itinerary

the late 1800s, plus a small Japanese garden. This area is open Tuesdays to Thursdays, and weekends from 9am until dusk. It may close on other days because of national holidays or private court functions. Entrance is free.

### **National Museum of Modern Art (MOMAT)**

Sitting on the northern side of the park, this museum is open every day except Monday. The main building houses a collection of both Japanese and Western-style works ranging from the beginning of the 20th century to the present date. The fourth floor has great views of the Imperial Palace Gardens. The Crafts Gallery is housed in the old headquarters of the European-styled Imperial Guards, and showcases modern Japanese crafts. Entrance fees vary according to the exhibitions.

For more details, visit: [www.momat.go.jp/english](http://www.momat.go.jp/english)

### **Marunouchi**

You could combine a visit to the palace with a stroll around the swanky high-rises of Marunouchi, Tokyo's most prestigious

## Detailed itinerary

business district. Gyoki-Dori Avenue will lead you to Tokyo Station building, which stands out because of its red-brick Victorian style, in stark contrast to the shiny-as-a-pin architecture surrounding it. Another nearby building of note is the Tokyo International Forum, a huge wonder of glinting steel and glass. Entry is free, and you can take the elevator to the top floors for close-up views of the roof — like the curved shell of a boat crisscrossed with bridges and walkways. During the week, the ground floor usually houses food trucks, so it's a good stopping place for lunch. On Sundays, it sometimes hosts an antique market.

*The grounds of the Imperial Palace are so large that several subway stations surround it. The most convenient are Otemachi Station (Chiyoda, Marunouchi, Hanzomon, Mita and Tozai Lines), Takebashi (Tozai Line), and Tokyo Station (a 10-15 minute walk and connected to most of the metro lines).*

### FREE TIME SUGGESTION: ASAKUSA

#### **recommendations for your free time - not included**

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Stepping away from Tokyo's futuristic metropolis, the bustling district of Asakusa holds tight to its history and tradition. At its heart is the ancient Buddhist Senso-ji Temple, where you can pray for good luck, and a shopping street scented by the aroma of just-baked treats.



# Detailed itinerary

## OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Nakamise Shopping Street**

Asakusa is served by the Ginza and Asakusa lines on the Tokyo Metro. When you exit the station, the huge Thunder Gate, known as Kaminarimon, bids a greeting. Through it, Nakamise Shopping Street reaches the peak of its bustle during the daytime, thanks to back-to-back shops and stalls selling traditional souvenirs, snacks, and sweet treats. Freshly baked sweet potato is popular, and the traditional taiyaki sweet cakes are particularly tasty. We also suggest sauntering this way after the shops close for the evening — nearby Sensoji Temple is lit up from sunset until 11pm, and lovely to see once the crowds have thinned.

### **Senso-ji Temple**

You might wish to buy an omikuji, a paper fortune, from Senso-ji Temple, which is open daily. The tourist office opposite the site has information in English, as well as an observation deck on the seventh floor from where you can

## Detailed itinerary

enjoy high views of the temple's main hall, red-and-gold pagoda, and Nakamise Shopping Street leading from the outer gate.

For more details, visit: [www.senso-ji.jp/about](http://www.senso-ji.jp/about)

### **Kappa-Bashi Street**

Marked by the looming statue of a curly-moustached-white-hatted chef, this street is the go-to for kitchenware, everything from sushi knives and handcrafted chopsticks to bento boxes. Plus, there are curious displays of plastic food — a common sight in the windows of restaurants throughout Japan.

### **Asakusa Hoppy Street**

A short walk from Kappa-Bashi Street, Asakusa Hoppy Street is home to old-school Japanese bars (izakayas), where you can tuck into tapas-style bites to eat and linger over drinks, usually until about 11pm each night.

# Detailed itinerary

## River boats

A different way to reach Asakusa is by river boat from both Odaiba and Hamarikyu Gardens. Longer than the Tokyo Metro journey, but more relaxing, they give you the chance to see the city from the water. The boats are not particularly frequent, so it's worth checking the schedules in advance.

For more details, visit: [www.suijobus.co.jp/en/price](http://www.suijobus.co.jp/en/price)



### SHIBA PARK HOTEL

**Location:** Tokyo

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**Your room booking:** 1x Renovated room - double - Breakfast included

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**THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023**



### FREE TIME SUGGESTION: SHINJUKU

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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It's one of the biggest and busiest districts in the city, the face of modern Japan. The main crossings light up at night with a barrage of neon and screens — a vivid sight. But among the

## Detailed itinerary

skyscrapers, Shinjuku has green spaces and mazes of narrow lanes crammed with eateries to enjoy before the sun goes down.

### **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden**

We recommend this park, one of Tokyo's oldest, for its spacious lawns, meandering walking paths, sycamore trees, and sense of peacefulness, a world away from the busy urban sprawl. Closed on Mondays, it's a five-minute walk from four stations, including Shinjuku Station.

#### **Shinjuku's skyscraper district**

You can see many of Tokyo's tallest buildings to the west of the station, including the twin towers of the Metropolitan Government Building, where you can ascend to the observation decks on the 45th floor for a city view — and Mount Fuji in the distance if the skies are clear. Shinjuku Central Park is located just behind the offices.

# Detailed itinerary

## **Omoide Yokocho**

This warren of narrow alleys, northwest of Shinjuku Station, is top-to-toe with tiny eateries serving great-value ramen, soba, sushi, yakitori, and kushiyaki. Many of the restaurants have little more than a single counter with some chairs, others just a couple of tables.

From Shinjuku Station (East Exit), you can reach Omoide Yokocho by walking along the left side. Before you reach the road, there's a pedestrian underpass on your left. Follow this, and within seconds you'll see the green neon signs above the alleys. If you're approaching from the West Exit, you need to walk along the right side with Keio department on your left and Odakyu department behind. After a minute or so, you'll see a UNIQLO building on the corner. Around it, the green neon signs mark the entrance of the alley.

For more details, visit: [www.shinjuku-omoide.com/english](http://www.shinjuku-omoide.com/english)

## **Kabukicho**

## Detailed itinerary

To the northeast of the station, Kabukicho is known as a (relatively tame) red light district, and a hotspot for open-all-night bars and eateries. We always recommend being wary of places with touts offering free drinks, because these usually come with a catch.

### **Golden Gai**

The small network of old alleys, just to the east of Kabukicho, brims with tiny bars and the odd restaurant. Although many of these bars charge a cover fee (shown clearly on the doors) we find that it's a great area for hopping between small drinkeries with differing niche designs to get a true sense of Tokyo nightlife. We recommend a well-reputed ramen restaurant here called Nagi Golden Gai, which uses dried sardines to add depth to its thick broth. The place is very small, only seating about ten people, but a great-value choice for a late meal.

### **Shin-Okubo**

For a break from Japanese food, 'Tokyo's Koreatown' is only one stop on the Yamanote Line from Shinjuku. Although there's little in the way of sightseeing, you'll find a huge range

## Detailed itinerary

of Korean restaurants. Be aware that many dishes contain Gochujang chili paste, making them incredibly spicy.

### FREE TIME SUGGESTION: SHIBUYA AND HARAJUKU

#### **recommendations for your free time - not included**

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Located within walking distance of each other, both Shibuya and Harajuku are at the heart of Tokyo's youth culture, attracting the young, chic, and eccentric. Alongside the scramble of pedestrians at Shibuya Crossing, Shibuya is home to a mass of shops and restaurants, while Harajuku's alleyways are lined with an eclectic mix of decadent dessert cafes, uber-trendy clothing boutiques, and 'kawaii' paraphernalia.

## **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Shibuya**

Around 30 minutes by train from Tokyo on the JR Yamanote loop line, we recommend starting your visit to Shibuya at the Hachiko dog statue. Having acquainted yourself with Hachiko's story, you could then venture with the throngs across the world's largest pedestrian crossing, Shibuya Crossing. A good viewing and photo spot for the crossing is Mag's Park, located on the roof terrace of the shopping complex building MAGNET by Shibuya 109.

# Detailed itinerary

## Shopping

Some shops that might be of particular interest include Tokyu Hands, a huge goods store selling stationary to beauty products and craft materials. A little further down the road is Loft, a trendy variety store which makes for great souvenir shopping. Muji's gigantic flagship store is also nearby, as well as Village Vanguard, a treasure trove packed floor-to-ceiling with various kick-knacks relating to Japan's many sub-cultures. The newly- opened Shibuya Stream complex is also a fantastic area to eat, relax, and enjoy a renovated section of the Shibuya River.

## Harajuku

From Shibuya, you can meander down trendy Cat Street to Harajuku. Cat Street itself is home to hipster coffee shops and on-trend clothing stores - the epitome of Harajuku cool - while the quarter's more kitsch side can be found along Takeshitadori, with its quirky dessert cafes, dessert cafes, purikura booths, and kawaii paraphernalia.

The Omotesando boulevard cuts through the heart of Harajuku and caters to the haute couture end of the spectrum. Many of its buildings have been designed by prominent architects, such as Omotesando Hills, a creation of Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

## Meiji-Jingu Shrine



# Detailed itinerary

The real historical highlight of Harajuku is Meiji Jingu Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and the Empress Shoken in 1920. This tranquil area is open from sunrise to sunset and features a variety of shrine buildings and gardens. Nearby is massive Yoyogi Park, a green space that hosts a variety of events, and is popular with runners and walkers on the weekends.

## Nezu Museum

We highly recommend this museum because of its stunning garden should you need an oasis of calm to recuperate from the buzz.

*The easiest way to reach both Harajuku and Shibuya station is via the JR Yamanote loop line.*

### SHIBA PARK HOTEL

**Location:** Tokyo

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**Your room booking:** 1x Renovated room - double - Breakfast included

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**FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2023**

### SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: HAKONE

# Detailed itinerary

**unaccompanied excursion by train and local public transport, transport pass incl**

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Volcanic cauldrons, mountains, art and sculpture museums, picturesque Lake Ashi and, weather permitting, long-range views of Mount Fuji — Hakone National Park encourages everyone to inhale a deep breath of fresh mountain air. It can be busy at weekends and on national holidays, but still offers the peaceful face of Japan in contrast to the racing pulse of Tokyo and Kyoto.

## **Our top recommendations**

### **Hakone Loop**

The best way to explore the park is by following the Hakone Loop, also known as Hakone Round Course. It will take you across the park's valleys, lakes, forests, and up hills and mountains on various forms of transport — train, cable car, ropeway, boat, and bus — all covered by the Hakone Free Pass that you'll receive when you arrive in Japan.

# Detailed itinerary

## **Hakone Loop: from Odawara**

Trains from Odawara arrive into Hakone-Yumoto, , and the loop begins here with the Tozan private train line, for which your Hakone Free Pass is valid. The main tourist information office is at Hakone-Yumoto, so it's a good place to pick up a detailed map. You can also join this loop from your nearest station if you're staying elsewhere in the park. We recommend beginning in an anti-clockwise direction because the buses from Lake Ashi run more frequently and quickly this way.

Hakone-Yumoto Station offers a same-day luggage forwarding service next to the first-floor stairs should you want to embark on the loop straight away. The cut-off time for delivery is 12:30pm.

## **Gora to Sounzan**

## Detailed itinerary

At Gora, , a funicular tram covers the journey to Sounzan, , where you can pick up the Hakone Ropeway. The first stop is Owakudani where, depending on the level of volcanic activity, it's possible to disembark for a closer look at the scenery. Otherwise, the ropeway continues on to the Togendai stop at the shores of Lake Ashi. This is where, if the weather is behaving, you'll get your first clear view of Fuji.

If there are very high levels of volcanic activity, or high winds, the ropeway can be partially or completely closed between Sounzan and Togendai. If that is the case, substitute buses will be running between Sounzan and Togendai.

### **Togendai**

The sightseeing ships depart from Togendai every 40 minutes until around 5pm, sailing across Lake Ashi to Hakone Machi, , then Moto Hakone, , which is the final destination. For an additional fee, you can upgrade to the first-class cabin. This provides a less crowded

## Detailed itinerary

experience and better views, and is worth considering during peak seasons or clear days when Fuji is visible. If time allows, when you get off the ship, it's worth turning left and following the road round to the north side of the lake shore. The path winds its way to Hakone Gongen Shrine, set among cedar trees. Opposite the shrine on the other side of the road is the striking torii gate that stands in Lake Ashi.

Also of interest here is the Narukawa Art Museum for both its classical Japanese art and its coffee shop from where the views float across the water toward Fuji. We also recommend Bakery and Table for snacks or lunch, served with lake views. Buses run from Moto-Hakone back towards Hakone-Yumoto and Gora.

### **Old Tokaido Highway**

If you've arrived in Moto Hakone by early afternoon, it's possible to walk part of the way back to Hakone-Yumoto on the Old Tokaido Highway. An important road link between the two feudal capitals of Edo (Toyko) and Kyoto, for a short distance, you can wander along the

## Detailed itinerary

original stone paving. From Moto-Hakone, the walk begins five minutes up the hill from the main bus station, look out for the large paving stones leading into the forest. The trail is easy to follow through the forest and eventually you will reach the Amazake Chaya teahouse, a beautiful traditional building, over 360 years old! Be sure to take off your shoes if you step up onto the raised area to sit.

It's possible to take the bus back to Hakone-Yumoto from the teahouse, or alternatively you can walk a little further to Hatajuku, a small village known for its yosegi, wooden mosaic work. There are various shops and workshops in the village. From Hatajuku, you may wish to walk back to Hakone Yumoto but we would recommend taking the bus from here as beyond this point the trail follows the main road and loses much of its charm.

### **Art museums:**

If time allows, or if visibility is poor, we recommend visiting Hakone's excellent art museums. You can access

## Detailed itinerary

most of them from the loop, but taxis may be useful and time-saving if you have particular sights you wish to visit.

### **Hakone Open Air Museum**

The best all-round museum houses more than 300 works by Pablo Picasso alone, as well as sculptures by Henry Moore, Auguste Rodin, and Joan Miró. You can view 100 outside sculptures (often in rotation) and an extensive indoor collection, too. The museum's about a five-minute walk from Chokokunomori Station, or 15 minutes on foot from Gora Station. It's open daily, and your Hakone Free Pass will give you a discount on entrance fees.

For more details, visit: [www.hakone-oam.or.jp/en](http://www.hakone-oam.or.jp/en)

### **Okada Art Museum**

If you're interested in fine art, this museum features a large collection of Asian ceramics, sculptures, and paintings, with a focus toward Chinese and Japanese

## Detailed itinerary

pieces. Set in extensive grounds, there's a Japanese garden and teahouse, plus a cafe that has a hot spring foot bath. The quickest way to access the museum, open daily, is to take the Hakonemachi line bus from Hakone-Yumoto to the Kowakien bus stop — the museum is next to the stop. Alternatively, you can travel by train to Kowakidani Station and it's a 20-minute walk from here.

For more details, visit: [www.okada-museum.com/en](http://www.okada-museum.com/en)

### **POLA Museum of Art**

Housing the private collection of Suzuki Tsuneshi, POLA Museum of Art is a must-see if you're interested in modern architecture — the building's concrete and glass design blends into the beech tree forest surroundings. The collection has a strong European focus with works by Paul Cezanne, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir.



## Detailed itinerary

The museum can be accessed from Gora station by taking a bus bound for Shissei Kaen and getting off at the Pola Art Museum stop. The museum's usually open daily, but may close sporadically for exhibition renewals, so we strongly advise checking the website before visiting. As well as the exhibits, you might like to follow the short nature trail through the forest.

For more details, visit: [www.polamuseum.or.jp/en](http://www.polamuseum.or.jp/en)



### SHIBA PARK HOTEL

**Location:** Tokyo

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**Your room booking:** 1x Renovated room - double - Breakfast included

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**SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2023**



### RAIL JOURNEY

**Bullet train with your ticket**

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** 10:37 Shinagawa Station

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# Detailed itinerary

**Arrive:** 12:44 Kyoto Station

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 **HYATT PLACE KYOTO**

**Location:** Kyoto

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**Check-in date:** 07/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 11/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard king - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** Medium

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Situated close to the Imperial Palace and just a short walk from Nijo Castle, the Hyatt Place Kyoto is conveniently located to explore many of Kyoto's top sites. Rooms are light, bright and spacious, and many have views over the courtyard or across the hotel's own roof garden. The hotel restaurant offers a breakfast buffet with a variety of Japanese and Western dishes, while the Lobby Bar serves a selection of drinks and light snacks throughout the day. There is a small but well-equipped onsite gym, open for guests' use throughout the day.

**Hotel address:**

240 Shoshoicho, Nakagyo-Ward, Kyoto, Japan,

604-0862 // 240

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# Detailed itinerary



## SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: DOWNTOWN KYOTO

### **recommendations for your free time - not included**

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You can spend days shopping at giant department stores and street markets, followed by evenings skipping from lively restaurants to throbbing waterside bars in downtown Kyoto, which has its nucleus around the buzzing Kawaramachi district.

## **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Daimaru**

You'll find the food markets on the eastern edge of the district. We recommend starting at the basement of Daimaru department store, where a veritable feast of produce ranges from perfectly formed and eye-wateringly elite teas and fine wines to beautifully wrapped traditional sweets and biscuits. The food is mainly takeaway style — for a sit-down meal you might like to visit the restaurants on the eighth floor.

# Detailed itinerary

## **Nishiki Market**

If you take the Nishiki-Dori exit at the rear of Daimaru, you'll pop straight out onto the narrow covered Nishiki Market, which has been serving the local population for centuries. Pickles, seafood, and fresh and dried produce are just some of the goods, alongside ready-to-eat snacks. The market is typically open 9am to 6pm, with some food stands, small restaurants, and stores closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

## **Teramachi&Shinkyogoku**

Teramachi and Shinkyogoku covered shopping arcade trace adjacent lines from the eastern end of Nishiki Market. Running north to south, there's an eclectic partnership of modern boutiques and long-standing traditional stores, as well as cafes, casual eateries, and old tea shops. We recommend glancing down the side streets, too.

## **Ippodo Tea**

On Teramachi, we suggest visiting the flagship store of Ippodo Tea, a premier tea merchant in Japan with a venerable history

## Detailed itinerary

and a satisfyingly traditional shopfront — the matcha tea and green tea at the on-site cafe are our must-tries.

### **Kiyamachi Street**

Pretty for a stroll because of the canal running alongside it, Kiyamachi Street has a crowd of restaurants and bars, with tables and verandas spilling out by the water. Some of Kyoto's largest clubs also have their premises here, so it can become busy when darkness falls. The eateries south of Shijo Street tend to be a little quieter.

### **Pontocho**

We love drawn-out strolls along this narrow street, which is lined with high-end restaurants, their patios overlooking the Kamo River.

## Detailed itinerary

# Detailed itinerary

## Sunday 8 October 2023

### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: NIJO CASTLE AND IMPERIAL PALACE**

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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From the ostentation of Nijo Castle to Kyoto Imperial Palace, cherry trees in a park setting, and the atmospheric, restaurant-lined lanes of Pontocho, you can discover culture, history, and nature in the central part of Kyoto.

### **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Nijo Castle**

The official residence of one of Japan's first shogun leaders, the castle dates from the early 1600s, its Edo-style construction and architecture deliberately clashing with the understated aesthetic of Kyoto. Behind the fortified ramparts, you can explore ornate chambers with tiled ceilings and heavily decorated wall panels, and tread on the inventive

## Detailed itinerary

nightingale floors that sing and squeak — to alert occupiers of invaders. The gardens of immaculate lawns, ponds and teahouses, are another delight.

*If you're staying near Sanjo or the Kyoto Imperial Palace, it's best to reach Nijo Castle on foot. Otherwise, the entrance is a short walk from Nijojo-mae Station along the Tozai subway line, or Nijo-mae bus stop if you're around Kyoto Station or Karasuma in the north.*

### **Kyoto Imperial Palace**

From Nijo Castle, it's a 30-minute stroll to this palace, which was reconstructed in 1855. We recommend joining one of the 50-minute free guided tours in English, available at 10am and 2pm, to move around the vast complex and hear stories about the history of the building and its royal residents. Entrance is free, but the palace is closed on Mondays.

### **Kyoto Imperial Palace Park**

After visiting the palace, you can perhaps enjoy the city's green lungs, criss-crossed with wide, gravel boulevards, and



## Detailed itinerary

home to a small island shrine in the southwest corner. During cherry blossom season, the grove of shidare-zakura (weeping cherry trees) are among Kyoto's most vivid. Sento Imperial Palace, within the park, is only accessible by a free one-hour tour, which you must book in advance either online, or with your passport at the Imperial Household Agency's office in the gardens. The tour is given in Japanese, but English audio guides are available on request. Closed on Mondays.

For more details, visit:

<https://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/english/guide/sento>

### **Kamo River**

As day transforms into night, we love to lounge by the Kamo River and watch the runners and cyclists pass by. If you're feeling adventurous, and the water isn't too high, you could cross the water on one of the stepping-stone footbridges.

### **Pontocho**

## Detailed itinerary

From Sanjo Street, you can head west and turn immediately left to enter Pontocho's narrow lane, packed with historic dwellings, hanging lanterns, and restaurants — the ones with English on their menus outside are most likely to have English-speaking staff.

### **HALF DAY TOUR: TEMPLES, GEISHA AND BACKSTREETS OF KYOTO**

#### **private excursion with your guide**

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Enjoy visiting some of Kyoto's fascinating temples and shrines, and end with a walk through one of Kyoto's geisha districts - Gion - where your guide will explain about the geisha's world - past, present and future. If you are lucky you will have the chance to see a geisha or maiko (apprentice geisha) as they head to the first appointment of the evening.

Good to know: There has recently been some legislative changes regarding the photographing of geisha in Kyoto, so check with your guide regarding the appropriateness of taking pictures.

At the end: Your guide will drop you off in Gion at the end of the tour with some local restaurant recommendations so you can enjoy a delicious meal before heading back for the evening.

### **HYATT PLACE KYOTO**

**Location:** Kyoto

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard king - Breakfast included

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# Detailed itinerary

## Monday 9 October 2023

### SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: NARA

#### **unaccompanied excursion by train**

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Nara was once the Japanese capital, and a source of enormous cultural and religious outpourings. Still dotted with Buddhist temples, shrines, and deer-roaming parkland, the city's relatively untouched by modern advances, and is just a 45-minute train ride from Kyoto for a relaxed day trip.

#### **Our top recommendations**

##### **Nara Park**

Hand-feeding the deer that roam freely around this large public park is one of Nara's most popular activities. You can buy shika senbei (deer crackers) from vendors, although it's worth nothing that these are wild animals and can nip if they think you carry treats. The park's a 20-minute walk from JR Nara Station, or you can take the Nara Kotsu bus from the station.

# Detailed itinerary

## **Todaiji Temple**

From the fifth and sixth centuries onwards, this region was Japan's cultural heartland, and successive rulers displayed their devotion to the recently introduced Buddhist faith by building splendid temples. Many of these remain, including the temple complex of Todaiji, where you can view a great bronze Buddha housed in one of the world's largest wooden buildings.

## **Tamukeyama Hachimangu**

Built at the same time as Todaiji Temple, this shrine was used to summon and house the deity that now inhabits the temple next door, and it has the quiet charm of a local temple.

## **Kasuga Taisha Shrine**

We love the thousands of lanterns, both hanging and stone, that line the pathways leading to and around this shrine. Founded at the same time as Nara itself, it was built for the Fujiwara clan, and you can see and smell lilac Fuji flowers (wisteria) in the summer months.

# Detailed itinerary

## **Kofuku-ji Temple & Horyu-ji Temple**

We recommend these temples for their statues of Buddha, relics, artwork, and paintings. Horyu-ji is one of Japan's oldest temples, and Kofuku-ji Temple's tall wooden pagodas have awarded them both a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

## **Nakatanido**

Located at the top of Sanjo Dori, next to the shopping arcade, Nakatanido is an acclaimed mochi shop where you can see mochitsuki, or mochi pounding, every 30 minutes or so. The activity often draws a crowd because of the speed and skill of the shopkeeper. You can purchase the fresh mochi on the spot, filled with azuki red bean.

## **Harushika Brewery**

This is a fun stop for impromptu sake tasting. You'll find the brewery, which is a registered historical landmark, at the edge of Nara Park in Naramachi, the traditional quarter of the city.

## Detailed itinerary

*The most efficient way to reach Nara is via Kyoto's JR Nara line, or private Kintetsu Line. Trains leave from Kyoto Station every 15 minutes. There are useful tourist information desks at both Kyoto and Nara Stations. The staff speak some English and can point you in the right direction.*



### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: OHARA**

#### **recommendations for your free time**

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Located in Kyoto's northern reaches, the ancient farming village of Ohara has a quiet and rural atmosphere that makes it feel like you're in a completely different city. Small shops selling cucumbers pickled in iced water, the 1,000-year-old Sanzenin Temple, and walking trails that spiral through forest-clad mountains lend it a timeless appeal.

## **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Main street**

To do Ohara justice, we recommend spending about six hours here, including the journeys to and from Kyoto. The main street is the best place to start. It's lined with numerous small

## Detailed itinerary

shops that you can browse. You might also like to taste aisu kyuri, Japanese cucumbers pickled in iced water and served on a stick.

### **Sanzenin Temple**

The main street threads to this large Buddhist temple, which lies behind stone walls partway up the forested mountains. For a small entrance fee, you can wander the complex of halls and tea rooms, more than 1,000 years old, and soak up the greenery in the statue-studded gardens.

### **Otonashi Waterfall**

Afterward, you could venture further into the forest-cloaked mountains. We suggest the marked trail behind the temples that takes you to the small Otonashi Waterfall, quietly trickling down the rocks. It should be no more than a ten-minute walk.

*From Kyoto Station, the fastest way to reach Ohara is to take the Karasuma Subway Line to its terminal station, Kokuzaikaikan Station, (a 20-minute journey), and then Kyoto Bus number 19 to Ohara (another 20 minutes, with a service*

# Detailed itinerary

*every 40 minutes). Alternatively, Kyoto Bus number 17 provides a direct connection from Kyoto Station to Ohara (60 minutes, every 20 minutes) via Shijo-Kawaramachi (45 minutes).*

## **HYATT PLACE KYOTO**

**Location:** Kyoto

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard king - Breakfast included

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## Tuesday 10 October 2023

### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: EARLY MORNING ARASHIYAMA**

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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The suburb of Arashiyama is home to Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, where you can walk among tall, rustling stalks of bamboo. It's best to visit early in the morning. With few visitors, it's a dream-like spot at first light as the sun glints through the trees.



## Detailed itinerary

*The first train from Kyoto Station to Saga-Arashiyama Station on the San-in line typically leaves around 6am, and the bamboo grove is well signposted from the station.*

### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: PHILOSOPHER'S PATH AND GINKAKUJI**

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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Following a cherry-tree-lined canal, the Philosopher's Path is a pedestrian stone walkway that's marked at each end by Zen temples. In the north, Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion) has a pond-and-bridge-riddled moss garden, a dry sand garden, and soaring views of Kyoto. Eikando Temple, to the south, is renowned for its intense red, yellow, and orange autumn foliage.

## **OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Ginkakuji**

You're free to start the walk from the north or the south. However, we recommend the Zen temple of Ginkakuji as your first stop — if you arrive at opening time you can beat some of the crowds. City buses 5, 17, and 100 all stop at

## Detailed itinerary

Ginkaku-ji-michi bus stop. From here, the temple is a ten-minute walk away.

### **Honen-in Temple**

After visiting Ginkakuji, as you start your walk down the Philosopher's Path, you'll see signs for Honen-in Temple. This is a worthwhile diversion to see the thatched-roof wooden gate and the patterned white-sand mounds in the grounds, plus the temple tends to be quiet. Entrance is free — it's open from 6am.

### **Eikando Temple**

A further 30-minute stroll along the Philosopher's Path will bring you to Eikando Temple — visible about 100 m (328 ft) after the path ends. The temple's well-known for its riot of vivid hues and evening illuminations in the autumn, but at other times of the year you might like to view the pagoda, pond, and Buddha statues.

### **Nanzenji Temple**

## Detailed itinerary

From Eikando Temple, it's a short walk to Nanzenji Temple. After entering the grounds via the massive Sanmon entrance gate, the main sight is the Hojo, the former head priest's residence, which has painted screens and a Zen garden. There's also a tearoom, where you can sample o-macha, the bitter Japanese green tea. From here, it's less than a ten-minute walk to Keage Station on the Tozai line, or to Nanzenji-Eikando-michi bus stop for City Bus 5 back to central Kyoto or Kyoto Station.

*If you're visiting Kyoto in cherry blossom season, the path will be very crowded so we advise setting off early in the morning before the temples open, or waiting until after sunset when the trees are illuminated and the area tends to be quieter.*



### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: UJI**

**recommendations for your free time - not included**

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Uji, located on the train line between Kyoto and Nara, boasts a raft of historic temples, shrines, and premium green tea shops worthy of a half-day trip. With relatively few visitors, it's a well-kept secret, although readers of the Japanese classic, *The Tale of Genji* will be familiar with the town.

# Detailed itinerary

## Our top recommendations

### Green tea

Uji is fondly regarded for its high-grade green tea, which the townsfolk have been producing from very early in the 12th century. To sample it, you can head across Uji Bashi Bridge and, at the end on your right, you'll find the most delicious matcha (green tea) ice cream in the Kyoto area. If you're here during cherry blossom season, the sakura ice cream (not very sweet) is a must-try, or the matcha and sakura combination. Inside this old shop, you can also dine on matcha soba noodles while gazing at the river.

### Byodoin Temple

On the reverse of a ten yen coin is a depiction of Byodoin Temple, one of the key attractions in Uji. It's set on a small lake filled with hundreds of Japanese koi carp. The vivid red of the temple against the still waters makes it a very photogenic place. The nearby museum houses items from the site, as well as excellent English descriptions of the archaeological works that have been taking place.

## Detailed itinerary

For more details, visit: <https://byodo-in.com>

### **Ujikami Shrine**

After Byodoin Temple, we recommend heading toward the river and turning right to stroll along the flora-filled embankment. You'll eventually see a stone bridge across to the island in the middle of Uji River, and a glimpse of the town's very old weeping cherry blossom tree. A red bridge to your right will then take you to Ujikami Shrine, where an emperor's son is buried.

### **Shopping**

Uji is home to an acclaimed shop called Raak. Inside, you can browse traditional and modern printed fabrics used to make bags, handkerchiefs, or simply for decoration.

### **The Tale of Genji Museum**

## Detailed itinerary

The statue of Murasaki Shikibu, author of *The Tale of Genji*, which is partially set in Uji, stands across the road from the Ujikami Shrine. From here, you can head to the Tales of Genji Museum where the last ten chapters of the book are reproduced with great realism using life-size projected images, models, and exhibitions. From here, if you head back down toward the river and across Uji Bridge, you can walk to the JR Uji Station.



### HYATT PLACE KYOTO

**Location:** Kyoto

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard king - Breakfast included

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## Wednesday 11 October 2023



### RAIL JOURNEY

#### Bullet train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** 09:43 Kyoto Station

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**Arrive:** 10:33 Himeji Station

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# Detailed itinerary

## EXPLORING HIMEJI

### **recommendations for your free time - not included**

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It is well worth breaking your journey to see the wonderful castle at Himeji, the most impressive of Japan's surviving feudal era fortresses.

Used as a backdrop for many samurai dramas (and also in the Bond movie 'You Only Live Twice'), the castle is better known among Japanese as 'Shirasagi-jo' – the white egret castle – because of the supposed resemblance of the white plastered walls, stretched either side of the central donjon, to the image of a bird taking flight. The castle is now designated a World Heritage Site and again, it is easily reached from the station (approx a 1 kilometre walk). Next door are a very pleasant series of gardens, the Koko-en, reconstructed on the site of a former lord's residence, and well worth a visit. Please note that at busy times, certain areas of the castle will limit the number of admissions. Tickets need to be purchased on arrival and cannot be pre-booked. It is worth purchasing a joint castle/garden ticket.

When you have finished here, return to the station and take the bullet train onward.

### **Directions**

On arrival into Himeji station, as you go through the shinkansen barriers into the main JR station, there is another set of barriers to your right, which is the way out of the station to the south. If you have a JR pass I would recommend going out through this exit and leaving your luggage in the coin lockers just outside and to the left, and then popping back in to the station and leaving by the exit on the other side to get to the castle. To get to the castle from the station, you can either

## Detailed itinerary

walk up the main road in front of you as you leave the station or up the shopping arcade one block to the right. The tourist office beside the exit can give you a map.

### RAIL JOURNEY

#### Bullet train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** 14:36 Himeji Station

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**Arrive:** 15:02 Okayama Station

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### MITSUI GARDEN OKAYAMA

**Location:** Okayama

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**Check-in date:** 11/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 13/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Moderate Queen - double - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** Medium

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Like other Mitsui Garden hotels, the Okayama one is clean, comfortable and well located. Rooms are on the small side but suitable



## Detailed itinerary

for a short stay. Breakfast is served buffet-style with Western and Japanese options available. There is also an onsen available for guest use.

The hotel is a short walk from the station – leave by the Koraku-en Exit (East Exit) and the Mitsui Garden is a 2 minute walk.

The hotel address is:

1-7 Ekimotomachi, Kita Ward, Okayama

700-0024 // 1-7

## Thursday 12 October 2023

### SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: KORAKUEN GARDENS

#### **recommendations for your free time - not included**

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Okayama is home to the celebrated Koraku-en Garden, which along with the Kenroku-en in Kanazawa and the Kairaku-en in Mito is considered one of Japan's three finest gardens. A classic 'stroll' garden, it is divided into three sections and features bamboo, pine, plum and cherry trees, along with tea bushes. The spacious gardens are overlooked by the reconstructed castle Okayama-jo. You can walk from the station to the garden, crossing the tree-lined Nishi-gawa Greenway Canal. Perhaps take a rest in the beautiful surrounds of the

# Detailed itinerary

garden, taking tea at the tea house and trying the local speciality: kibidango – a softer version of mochi, and well known for its role in the folklore tale of Momotaro ‘the boy born from a peach’.

To get to Koraku-en Garden in Okayama, you can take a bus from stop number 4 outside the train station's central exit, and back from the stop on your right as you leave the garden. Take a ticket as you get on the bus and pay the corresponding fare on the electronic display board at the front of the bus when you get off (if you are unsure, show your ticket to the driver and he will help you).

Alternatively, you can take a tram from the stop opposite the station's central exit. You get off three stops along at Shiroshita and pay when you get off (JPY100). From here you need to take the main street on the right and walk a few hundred yards to the garden's main entrance.

## RAIL JOURNEY

### Local train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** TBD Okayama Station

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**Arrive:** TBD Kurashiki Station

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## EXPLORE KURASHIKI

### recommendations for your free time - not included

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Kurashiki is a small city, boasting a fine selection of art and archaeological museums, as well as the famous Bikan area. During

## Detailed itinerary

the Edo Period, the rice harvested in the fertile regions around Kurashiki used to be stored in the city's many storehouses (kura). A number of those storehouses survive in Kurashiki's historic district, a picturesque area along a willow-lined canal.

Many of the storehouses have been converted in to museums, souvenir stores, boutiques and cafés. Most famous among Kurashiki's museums in the historic canal district are the Ohara Museum of Art, a Western art gallery and the Museum of Folkcraft.

When you arrive in to Kurashiki, it's either a 15-minute walk or a short taxi ride to the Bikan district - if you do opt to take a taxi, it's worth asking to be dropped off at the Ohara Museum of Art as this is located just on the corner of the interesting part of town.

The Ohara Museum of Art boasts one of Japan's greatest collections of western art, including El Greco's 'The Annunciation' and 'In Tahiti' by Paul Gauguin. About half of the roughly 3,000 items in the gallery are on permanent display. The main gallery looks like a Greek temple, and contains mainly European paintings, while the Craft Gallery next door contains ceramics, prints and dyeing by Japanese artists. The annexe to the south displays Egyptian and Turkish artefacts, and is a must-see for art lovers.

The Kurashiki Folk Craft Museum features about 800 articles from the past and present that were used in daily life. These include weaving, pottery and wooden implements. The building is worth seeing in itself. It consists of three converted rice storehouses built at the beginning of the 19th century, and has beautiful white walls with black tiles attached. There is an impressive view of the town of Kurashiki from the windows of the third building.



### RAIL JOURNEY

# Detailed itinerary

## Local train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** TBD Kurashiki Station

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**Arrive:** TBD Okayama Station

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## MITSUI GARDEN OKAYAMA

**Location:** Okayama

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**Your room booking:** 1x Moderate Queen - double - Breakfast included

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# Friday 13 October 2023

## RAIL JOURNEY

## Bullet train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** 10:37 Okayama Station

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**Arrive:** 12:18 Hakata Station

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## ANA CROWNE PLAZA FUKUOKA

## Detailed itinerary

**Location:** Fukuoka

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**Check-in date:** 13/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 15/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - double - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** Medium

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Proceed out of the Sumiyoshi-dori exit (west exit) and cross the road. The road leading diagonally south-west of here is Sumiyoshi-dori on which you will find the hotel. Taxi from Hakata Station to Hotel - approx. JPY700 (7 mins)

The hotel address is:

3-3-3 Hakata Ekimae, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka

812-0011 // 3-3-3

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### **FREE-TIME SUGGESTION: EXPLORING FUKUOKA**

#### **recommendations for your free time**

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As the gateway to Kyushu, Fukuoka is a common stop for visitors heading to the wider region. The city is renowned for its high quality of life, and this is reflected in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere around the city. As well as its unique street food scene, the city has some

## Detailed itinerary

exciting museums and galleries to explore, including the Museum of Asian Art, which houses some of the most wonderful examples of (sometimes quite daring) sculpture and photographs!

Fukuoka City () is split in half by the Naka River. On the east side is the Hakata district, and to the west is the Fukuoka area. This dates back to the Edo period, although they were united during the 19th century. The city has a 2000 year history and serves as the gateway to the rest of Northern Asia, having good transport links with South Korea and China by ferry and hydrofoil. All of this makes Fukuoka City very much an international place by Japanese standards.

Fukuoka is famous for its Hakata dolls, stalls selling yatai (noodles in broth, including oden and ramen) and a baseball team, currently known as the Soft Bank Hawks, who have a dome stadium at Hawkstown, in the city. The team are famous in Japan and won the Japan title in 2015 and 2017, the baseball equivalent of the FA cup or World Series.

Your first stop in Fukuoka should be the tourist desk situated on the ground floor of Hakata Station. They can provide details of the latest events as well as maps in English. While you are there, look out for the free magazine, Fukuoka Now, with its restaurant and bar recommendations. Likewise, get a copy of the Fukuoka Welcome card, which gives plenty of discounts for foreign visitors to local attractions.

### **The Hakata District**

This district contains the largest concentration of sights so is the best place to focus if you have only a half day or so to explore the city.

## Detailed itinerary

Beginning at Hakata Station, the Hakata Machiya Folk Museum tells the story of life in the merchants' quarter during the Edo period. Of particular interest are the festival floats which are wheeled out annually for the festival in July. These huge floats weigh several tonnes and are carried over a course through the city by barely clad men, beginning in the very early hours of the morning. Entry is JPY 200 and the museum is open from 10am to 6pm every day (9am during July and August, closed fourth Monday of each month, and following Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday). To get there, take the subway to Gion Station and follow the directions. If you are using google maps to navigate, the Folk Museum is labelled as the Hakata Townhouse History Hall.

From the Folk Museum, it is a short walk to Kushida Shrine. The shrine marks the finishing point of the course for the July festival but is worth a visit at any time of year. There is another replica of one of the floats at the shrine.

From the Kushida Shrine, continue walking up towards the Asian Art Museum. On the way, you should pass the Hakata Traditional Craft and Design Museum, open every day except Monday. Entry is free so pop in and head upstairs to see their collection of Hakata dolls.

The Asian Art Museum is by Nakusa Kawabata Station. The museum opened in 1999 and contains work from over 20 countries. Admission is only JPY 200 and the opening hours are 9.30am to 7.30pm every day except Wednesday.

While you are in the Hakata area, you might like to visit Canal City Shopping Centre. It houses plenty of big-name stores, including Muji and Uniqlo, both good for reasonably priced clothes and Japanese items including stationery and quirky household items. Built in 1996, it has a futuristic design, including a canal with elaborate fountain

# Detailed itinerary

displays every 30 minutes, and incorporates the Hyatt Hotel as well as a theatre and cinema. The fifth floor is home to Ramen City, which is a great place to try Tonkotsu Ramen, which Fukuoka is famous for.

## **Tenjin**

Tenjin is the city's commercial centre but is also a great place for shopping, as it has all the big department stores as well as a huge underground shopping centre which is virtually invisible from street level (just take one of the numerous subway-looking entrances and be amazed!). Check out the food hall on the lower floors of the Mitsukoshi department store for a huge variety of Japanese food served both hot and cold. Try the black sesame seed ice cream - one of the more unusual, yet tasty, options.

To reach Tenjin take the subway to Tenjin Station.

## **Hawkstown**

This area, by the coast, is home to the baseball team, and you may be able to catch a match here if tickets are available.

## **Ohori Park**

The Fukuoka Art Museum is located in beautiful Ohori Park and was established to display modern art from around the world. The permanent collection includes work by Salvador Dali, Japanese modern art and images of Buddha. Also watch out for the special exhibitions which are normally excellent. Admission is JPY 200 and entrance to the special collections is generally around JPY 1000. Opening hours are from 9.30am-5.30pm every day except Monday. To get there take the subway to Ohori Koen Station.

## **Yatai Stalls**



## Detailed itinerary

Every evening Yatai Stalls pop up around the city, selling a variety of delicious Japanese cuisine. Each stall only has a handful of seats and hopping between a few of them is a great way to spend an evening. Whilst the stalls are well known for selling tonkotsu ramen, as this is such a filling dish we would suggest saving this for a meal in itself (perhaps at Ramen City in the Canal City Shopping Centre, as detailed above), and sampling the smaller plates including Yakitori (grilled skewers of meat or vegetables), oden (a sort of hot pot where various ingredients are cooked together in a broth. The ingredients can then be ordered separately), gyoza (dumplings usually containing minced pork meat), and a number of other dishes. The yatai stall owner will usually tell you what their specialty is!

In our experience, the stalls around the Tenjin area offer the biggest variety of dishes and have a more local atmosphere than the stalls around the canal areas. Many stalls do have English or picture menus, but please do note that dietary requirements, including vegetarianism, cannot be catered for. Some of the stalls have a policy whereby you need to order at least one drink with your food.

Please note that most of the stalls do not open on Sundays and it is also likely that many of them will not set up if the weather is very bad.

## Saturday 14 October 2023

### SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: YANAGAWA

#### **recommendations for your free time**

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Yanagawa, the Japanese Venice, is famous for its '**Kawa kudari**' **boat tours** of the criss-cross network of canals, complete with singing guide

## Detailed itinerary

if you so wish. You can spend the day winding your way under the overhanging trees with the expert guidance of your punter. He may offer to sing for you or even let you punt the boat if you ask!

While in Yanagawa you may like to stop at the **Ohana House**, the birthplace of poet Hakushu Kitahara. A local cultural museum is also contained in the building, a Western-style house with some pretty Japanese gardens. The entrance fee is around JPY700 per person.

The local speciality food is eels, which for the more adventurous can be eaten steamed and served with noodles.

From Hakata Station take the subway to Tenjin, the shopping district a few minutes ride away. Leave the subway and follow the signs to the **Nishitetsu Train Station**, which is located in the Solaria Plaza on one of the upper floors. Please leave plenty of time for this transfer as the whole area is very busy and frequently crowded. Take the **Nishitetsu Tenjin-Omuta Line** to Yanagawa. Please note this is not a JR train and hence not covered by your JR Pass.

On arrival in Yanagawa you should have no trouble in finding someone to punt you along the river. There will be plenty of men with boats looking for business so choose your preferred rower and work out the price. The going rate is around JPY1500 per person and JPY800 for a child. The price is generally set and will be the same for almost all the boats. The ride takes around an hour and includes a running commentary (in Japanese only though!). If you are feeling a bit cold then wrap some of the beautiful quilts in the boat around you. At the end of the journey you are generally given a ride back to your point of origin in a taxi or minivan.

There are plenty of eating options in Yanagawa, especially those at the beginning of the route for the punts. If you ask for a 'bento' you can

## Detailed itinerary

buy a Japanese packed lunch box to eat in the punt along the way. Eels are order of the day for bento boxes. Should you wish to ask for them the Japanese word for eel is 'unagi'.

### ANA CROWNE PLAZA FUKUOKA

**Location:** Fukuoka

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - double - Breakfast included

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## Sunday 15 October 2023

### VEHICLE HIRE PICK-UP CAR HIRE

**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

**Vehicle type:** Orix Sedan

**Duration of hire:** 15/10/2023 - 20/10/2023

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**Pick-up point:** Orix Fukuoka Hakata Station Hakata Exit

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**Pick-up time:** 09:00

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**You can find the full terms of your rental in the vehicle rental section**

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### FUKUOKA TO NAGASAKI

# Detailed itinerary

## self-drive

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Heading out of the city and to the south-east of northern Kyushu, you will pass through rice paddies and pottery towns (such as Arita, one of the famous names of the ceramic world) to reach the coast and the port town of Nagasaki. Despite its recent past, Nagasaki is a charming town of streetcars, gardens, museums and a lovely wharf to enjoy a drink at sunset.

The quickest route (in roughly 2 hours) takes you along route 3 due south of Fukuoka City at which point there is a turning for the Nagasaki Expressway Y at Tosu . A longer but arguably more interesting route takes you west along Fukuoka prefecture's coast through the castle town of Karatsu (worth a quick visit if only for the excellent burgers the town is famous for) on Route 202 then 203 before joining the Nagasaki Expressway.



## HOTEL NEW NAGASAKI

**Location:** Nagasaki

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**Check-in date:** 15/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 18/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - twin - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** First Class

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The New Hotel in Nagasaki is a fine first-class hotel located conveniently near to Nagasaki train station. The rooms here, whilst

## Detailed itinerary

fairly plain in decor, are spacious and quiet, and with good facilities this makes this the best high-end option in Nagasaki.

The hotel address is:

14-5 Daikokumachi, Nagasaki

850-0057 // 14-5

## Monday 16 October 2023

### FREE-TIME SUGGESTION: EXPLORING NAGASAKI

#### recommendations for your free time

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Nagasaki's most important site is of course the **A-Bomb Museum and Peace Park** in the suburb of Nagasaki where the A-bomb exploded with devastating effect. The museum is a credit to the local population as it takes you through the events that led up to the fateful day in 1945, intelligently offering varying opinions and perspectives while never losing its underlying mission of campaigning for global nuclear disarmament. The video testimonies of various eyewitness accounts towards the end of the route through the museum include those of Australian POWs who were held captive close to Nagasaki and whose advocacy that the bomb was necessary has not been censored for Japanese sensibilities. The **Hypocentre Park** is outside the museum, marked by a small monument around which concentric circles are symbolic of the blast. The remains of a turret from the **Catholic cathedral** that once stood on this site are immediately beside the monument. The experience of visiting the area in its entirety is much

## Detailed itinerary

more poignant than the more 'obvious' Hiroshima monuments, as restraint and considerable thought have been employed. However, the horror is still very much apparent.

The area around Nagasaki Station itself has one or two sights worth seeing, not least the **monument to the Catholic martyrs** who gave their lives when the Japanese authorities decided to purge the country of their missionary message for fear of their growing influence in the area. To the south of the city lie **Glover Gardens** and the **Dutch Slopes**, an area that bears a reminder to an earlier time in history when Nagasaki was at the heart of European influence in an isolationist Japan. **Deijma Island** offers an insight into the lives of these Dutch would-be colonialists, and a walk down through the beautiful Glover Gardens is a must. In the evening, **Deijma Wharf** for its seaside setting of bars and restaurants is lovely, and the entertainment district of **Shianbashi** is a maze of neon and populated by swathes of pleasure-seeking locals. You may now be able to ascertain what happens behind the façades, but a stroll around the area allows a fascinating insight into modern-day Japan, and the brave are always welcome if they dare open the doors!

The practicalities of getting around Nagasaki are not difficult, not least because it is relatively compact compared to most Japanese cities. The street-car (tram) system is easy to use and you can purchase a 'freedom pass' for the day (JPY500) at your hotel lobby, which allows unlimited use. However, as it costs only JPY120 per trip it is unlikely that you will get more than your money's worth so simply paying each time you exit the trams is actually a better option (it is best to have the correct change on you). You can change between the tram line to Glover Gardens and the tram line to the A-Bomb Museum at Tsukimachi - when you pay upon alighting the first tram ask the driver

## Detailed itinerary

for a 'norikae' ticket (transfer ticket) and then pop this in the box when you alight from the next tram.

To get to the A-Bomb Museum take the tram up back past Nagasaki JR railway station and after around five minutes you will arrive at Urakami Station. The museum is a short walk up the hill and clearly signposted in English. It costs JPY150 to enter the A-Bomb Museum - you walk down a spiralling walkway into the exhibit area before paying. All captions are in Japanese and English. After walking around the museum continue down the steps to the Hypocentre Park, and the 'Peace Park' is then a further two minutes' walk over the next block. After visiting the Peace Park you can board the street car back to central Nagasaki, again at the Matsuyama stop as the walk between the sites has simply taken you up the tram line a couple of stops.



### **HOTEL NEW NAGASAKI**

**Location:** Nagasaki

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - twin - Breakfast included

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## Tuesday 17 October 2023



### **SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTION: GOTO ISLANDS**

**recommendations for your free time**

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## Detailed itinerary

The two main islands in the Goto Islands are Fukue-jima and Nakadori-shima. These islands once formed a refuge for Japanese Christians escaping persecution from the Edo government.

Fukue, the fishing port on the island of the same name, is the main town in the group. The town's Ishida-jo was rebuilt in the 1860s. There's also a street of samurai houses nearby. Ondake, about 800 metres from Fukue, is a coterminous volcano (315 metres) covered by grass and with an astronomical observatory. Dozaki Tenshudo has exhibits of artefacts from the hidden Christian era and is the oldest church on the Goto Islands. It's a 30 minute bus ride from Fukue. The island's most popular beaches are on the north central coast.

You can visit Fukue easily as a day trip from Nagasaki. Return ferries operate from Nagasaki a couple of times per day across to Fukue. Some of the ferry departures are very early in the morning, starting at 7.40, but it is recommended to take an early ferry if you want to make the most of a day's sightseeing on the island. The last ferry back is at 4.30pm, also from Fukue Port. There is a full-day and half-day tour bus that will take you around the major sites on the island. As the island is very much off the beaten track and does not receive many Western visitors the tours are all in Japanese.

Alternatively, you may like to hire a car to explore the island more independently, which we can of course arrange for you.



### HOTEL NEW NAGASAKI

**Location:** Nagasaki

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - twin - Breakfast included

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# Detailed itinerary

## Wednesday 18 October 2023

### NAGASAKI TO KUMAMOTO

#### **Self-drive by car ferry via Unzen and Shimabara**

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Drive from Nagasaki to Unzen, a journey of about an hour and 45 minutes. Heading east towards the **Shimabara-hanto** (peninsula), you will begin to head up to the area known as Unzen. **Unzen** is an active volcanic area, renowned for its hot springs and bubbling holes. These hills are pleasingly natural after the manicured and landscaped examples elsewhere, but a little spoiled by pipes laid to siphon the waters off to the onsen hotels around. Many of the hills have interesting histories and legends, and for those interested in wildlife there is English signage throughout about the flowers and birds you may see. After a wander around the hills, head up the hill to **Fugen-dake**, the newest cone on the volcano which suddenly erupted in 1990. There is also a cable car up to an observation platform, if the volcano is behaving itself.

After a couple of hours in Unzen, follow the road over to **Shimabara Port**, which shouldn't take more than 45 minutes. From here you take a car/passenger ferry for the hour-long trip across the bay to **Kumamoto**.

Before heading off, you may want to visit the information office on the second floor of the bus station (or check in the hotel) where they can give you timetables and maps of Unzen in English.

## Detailed itinerary

Shimabara Port has no English signs but it will be easy to know where to park for the transit onto the ferry. Once over the other side, it's a short trip into Kumamoto city, signalled by its impressive castle.

### Numbers:

**Unzen TIC** - 0957 73 3636 - [http://www.unzen.org/e\\_ver/](http://www.unzen.org/e_ver/)

**Shimabara Port** - 0957 65 0701  
- [http://www.kumamotoferry.co.jp/lang\\_en/](http://www.kumamotoferry.co.jp/lang_en/)



### **CROWNE PLAZA ANA KUMAMOTO NEW SKY**

**Location:** Kumamoto

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**Check-in date:** 18/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 19/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard twin - twin - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** Medium

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This hotel is situated by the beautiful Shirakawa River and is the perfect place for exploring the surrounding area, most famously Kumamoto Castle and Suizenji Park. The hotel has an array of comfortable facilities: rooms are modern, with some offering views over the city skyline, and there are three restaurants to choose from. A warm welcome and traditional Japanese hospitality await guests.

The hotel is a five-minute drive from Kumamoto Station. Limited parking is available onsite for 1000 yen per night.

# Detailed itinerary

Mapcode: **29 428 745\*74**

The hotel address is:

Chuo-Ku 2 Higashiamidaji-Machi, shi, Chuo Ward, Kumamoto

860-8575 // 2



## EXPLORE KUMAMOTO

### Ideas only - no excursions included

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The most famous sight in Kumamoto is its **castle**, originally built in 1607 and restored in 1960. Sadly, due to the succession of earthquakes in April 2016, the castle is closed to the public indefinitely.

Nevertheless, the castle is visually impressive even if only from the outside. Nearby is the **Prefectural Art Museum** with a wide-ranging collection of both Japanese and Western art. **Suizenji-koen**, one of Japan's best-known hill gardens, is the city's other main sight and has only just reopened to the public, but it's best to get here early before the crowds. Kumamoto is also proud of its **Folk Craft Museum**, which displays fine examples of both local and international crafts. Finally, should you be interested in former Western residents of Kumamoto, you can visit the former houses of both Irish writer Lafcadio Hearn, in the heart of the city, and teacher Leroy James, near the garden.

The best way to get around the city is to use the tram system, which costs a flat rate of ¥150 per trip. Enter via the back, and when you are

## Detailed itinerary

ready to get off press one of the buttons. There is an electronic board at the front of the tram which announces the current and next stop in both Japanese and English - you exit from the front, dropping your ¥150 into the top of the box next to the driver (if you need change you can insert a note, or larger denomination coin, into the front slot of the same machine). The driver will help you if you are unsure.

For Suizenji-koen , simply take the tram to the stop of the same name, which is nine stops past the one for the castle. It's a little trickier to find as there is little English here, but cross to the right hand side of the road and walk to the next set of traffic lights, which are just before the intersection, almost right in front of you (you should be able to see a black building with 'Le Grande La Cere' written on the front, which is on the far side of the road just past the intersection). There is a silver plaque directing you to the garden just before this. Turn right at the lights, and follow this road down and round to the right. The park is straight ahead of you, past the line of tourist shops, and is open from 9.00am. Leroy James' house is behind the garden and signposted as 'Jane's residence'. Lafcadio Hearn's house is in the city centre, behind the Tsuruya department store. The tourist information office at the station can give you a map of the city to help you get around.

## Thursday 19 October 2023

### KUMAMOTO TO KUROKAWA

#### **Self-drive**

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This scenic journey takes you around the northern side of Mount Aso's caldera on Route 57. Then you will turn off on to the Yamanami

## Detailed itinerary

Highway up to Kurokawa. It should take you about 1-2 hours, depending on traffic.



### HOZANTEI RYOKAN

**Location:** Kurokawa

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**Check-in date:** 19/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 20/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard Japanese room - futon - Breakfast and dinner included

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**Our rating:** First Class

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The Hozantei ryokan is a collection of traditional Japanese rooms, situated around a delightful little koi carp pond and garden area. Rooms are Japanese style, some having their own outdoor hot spring bath overlooking the nearby river. Whilst the inn itself is located out of the way of Kurokawa centre, the peace, quiet and tranquillity more than make up for the location. Food is simply delicious, the staff is wonderful, the rural setting delightful, and the little hot springs - heaven!

The hotel address is:

6346 Manganji, Minamioguni, Aso District, Kumamoto

869-2402 // 6346

Mapcode: 440 544 596\*30

# Detailed itinerary

## Friday 20 October 2023

### KUROKAWA TO TAKACHIHO

#### Self-drive

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This beautiful journey takes you around the imposing Mount Aso itself, where you can of course stop and explore for as long as you wish. You'll travel towards the Kuju Mountain Range, before turning off towards Mount Aso. Once you have had your fill of its impressive scenery, the winding road takes you into the mountains towards Takachiho. (Approximately 84 kilometres; two hours).

Begin by driving on **Route 442** towards Kongoho-ji Temple. Here, you'll turn on to **Route 11** towards Mount Aso. Stay on this road for around 22km (13 miles) before turning left onto **Route 57**. You'll only stay on this road for 2km (1 mile) before turning right onto **Route 265**. For 26km (16 miles), stay on the 265 as it winds through the mountains, before turning left onto the **325**. Stay on this for around 25km (15 miles) as it takes you all the way to **Takachiho**.

#### [Takachiho Shrine Info](#)

**Address:** 882-1101 Miyazaki Prefecture, Nishiusuki District, 1037

**Phone:** 0081 982 72 2413

### AT LEISURE IN TAKACHIHO

#### Recommendations for your free time

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# Detailed itinerary

Takachiho garners quite a bit of attention now due to its close proximity to the hot springs of Kurokawa so it is very likely you will be sharing the gorge with tour groups, but it is still a pretty spot that is worth a quick stop. It is free to walk alongside the gorge on the paved walkway or rent a rowing boat for 2,000 yen, although the view from the rowing boat will not be much different!

## TAKACHIHO TO KAGOSHIMA

### Self-drive

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Drive from Takachiho to the seaside city of Kagoshima, journey of approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes without stops.

## VEHICLE HIRE DROP-OFF CAR HIRE

**Drop-off point:** Orix Kagoshima-Chuo Station

**Drop-off time:** 19:30

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## SOLARIA HOTEL KAGOSHIMA

**Location:** Kagoshima

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**Check-in date:** 20/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 22/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard - double - Breakfast included

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## Detailed itinerary

**Our rating:** Medium

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Opened in 2012, Solaria Hotel Kagoshima is just a two minute walk from JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station and features a French restaurant and massage services. Its modern rooms impress with a 4-star decor and a spacious shower room with a bathtub. Free WiFi is available throughout the premises. Each room has an LCD TV, a fridge and an electric kettle with green tea, and the bathing area and toilet are separated for improved hygiene. Some rooms have views of Sakurajima volcano.

The hotel address is:

11 Kagoshima, Chuocho

890-0053 // 11

## Saturday 21 October 2023

 **FREE-TIME SUGGESTION: EXPLORING KAGOSHIMA**

### Recommendations for your free time

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A short ferry or drive away from the mainland, neighbouring active volcano Sakurajima is one of the main points of interest for those spending time in Kagoshima. Actually, the green grass you'll see along the street car tracks in the city centre are fertilised by its abundant volcanic ash! On the mainland, the highlight of a visit to Kagoshima



## Detailed itinerary

will be the beautiful Sengan-en gardens, a little distance outside of the main city.

Kagoshima is about an hour to navigate its circumference. There are several 'points of interest' which you can choose to stop at, such as foot baths and produce gardens (Sakurajima is the proud home of Japan's largest 'daikon' radishes) however perhaps the most interesting would be Yunohira Observation Point (the highest on the island), Kurokami Observation Point (for views of the Showa crater and lake), and Arimura Observation Point, where you can view different types of lava and explore a few short paved walking trails.

From Kagoshima, Sakurajima island is accessed by ferry which runs approximately every 15 minutes from the port. It costs approximately 1500 yen each way to take your car on to the ferry. If you do not have a rental car, it is possible to visit the island using the Sakurajima Island View Bus. This runs approximately hourly from the Sakurajima ferry terminal; a one day pass is 500 yen per person. Please see <http://www.kagoshima-kankou.com/for/areaguides/sakurajima/access2.html> for the timetable and further details.

During your stay, we also recommend a visit to the Kagoshima Sengan-en garden, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Landscaped in the Japanese 'strolling' style, Sengan-en has seen royal visits from England's Edward VIII as well as Russia's Czar Nicholas II and includes traditional features such as pines, the Hisago pond as well as a bamboo grove. Visitors can enjoy colourful hydrangeas blooming from late May- early June as well as the autumnal changes of the Japanese maple 'momiji' trees, with excellent views of Sakurajima year-round (weather dependant).

## Detailed itinerary

Surrounded by the garden is the stately home belonging to the influential Shimadzu family for over 350 years, and those interested in Japanese architecture can walk through the house and stop to sit and admire its own garden within.

Next to the garden is the Shimadzu Satsuma Kirinko Glassworks, displaying the colourful and ornate pieces of crystal glass cut in the technique which was developed locally about 150 years ago. You may be able to see the artisans practicing their craft on your visit and there is also a shop displaying beautiful and rather expensive pieces for sale (closed Mondays and every third Sunday, open public holidays but closed the following Tuesday and fourth Sunday if the holiday falls on a Monday).

Entrance to both the garden and the Shimadzu home is about 1,000 JPY and English maps and guidance are provided.

Open daily 8:30 – 17:30 year round.

To get there by car, enter the phone number 099-247-1551 into your navigation system and park in the adjacent parking area (about 500 JPY). There are also bus services from both Kagoshima Chuo station (10 minutes) or Kagoshima station (30 minutes) – get off at Sengan-en Mae stop. Alternatively a taxi may be the most straightforward and time-efficient way if you don't have a rental car.

Restaurant recommendations around the city:

### **Shop Name: Sushi-kan**

Kagoshima is known for fresh seafood. Sushi-Kan serves traditional Japanese sushi.

Address: 14-7 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

## Detailed itinerary

Tel: +81 (0) 99 224 9999

Opening Hours: 11:00am-2:00pm, 5:00pm-10:00pm

(closes at 9:00pm on Saturdays)

Card: OK

Car Parking: No

Seating: Counter 12seats, 4 Private Rooms (6-8 people)

Cost: 2500 Yen for lunch and 10000 Yen for dinner

### **Shop Name: Tempura Sazen**

The chef here fries fresh shrimp, seafood and vegetables in front of you. Alongside your hot tempura, you can enjoy Kagoshima's local shochu drink here, made from sweet potato. We recommend sitting at the counter.

Address: 4f 11-6 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 225 3677

Opening Hours: 11:30am-10:00pm, Sunday and public holidays  
11:30am-9:30pm

Card: OK

Car Parking: No

Seat Capacity: Counter 14 seats, Table 16 seats

Cost : 2000 Yen For Lunch and 5000 Yen For Dinner

### **Shop Name : Kurokatsu-tei Tenmonkan Branch**

Kuro Bei

## Detailed itinerary

The Kurobuta Tonkatsu (black boar cutlet in breadcrumbs) here is excellent, and as with most Japanese Tonkatsu restaurants, your sides of cabbage, rice and miso soup are all 'bottomless' free of charge.

Address : 2-2 Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 213 9600

Opening Hours: 11:30am-3:30pm for Lunch; 5:00pm-11:00pm for Dinner

Card: OK

Car Parking: No

Seat Capacity: Counter 7 seats, 7 table 30 seats

Cost : 1500 Yen For Lunch, 5000 Yen For Dinner

### **Shop Name : Ichi-ni-san**

Ichi ni san serves Kurobuta shabu shabu 'hot pot'. Kagoshima Kurobuta (black boar) are fed on sweet potatoes (called satsuma-imo in Kagoshima), giving it a distinct flavour. Here you can try the pork with the dashi stock soup for soba (normally shabushabu beef is eaten with ponzu and sesame sauce).

Address : 2.3f 11-6 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 225 2123

Opening Hours: 11:30am-10:30pm (11:30am-3:00pm Lunch only menu)

Card: OK

Car Parking: No

## Detailed itinerary

Seat Capacity: Counter 11 seats, Table 54 seats

Cost: 3000 Yen For Lunch, 10000 Yen For Dinner

### **Shop Name : Tenjimbou Marushin**

A great place for soba, this is a small and friendly cafe. Sake is also served here.

Address : 2f 8-22 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 222 4565

Opening Hours: 11:00am-9:00pm (closed Tuesdays)

Card: OK

Car Parking: No

Seat Capacity: Counter 11 seats, Table 54 seats

Cost : 1500 Yen For Lunch, 4000 Yen For Dinner

### **Shop Name : Kagoshima Ramen Tontoro Tenmonkan Arcade Branch**

This is a casual place where local people stop by to eat ramen noodles. The soup is thick with dashi stock of pork, chicken and fish.

Address : 11-15 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 226 7755

Opening Hours: 11:00am-9:00pm

Card: NO (cash only)

Purchase tickets from the vending machine and pass to the shop staff.

## Detailed itinerary

Seat Capacity: Counter 6 seats, Table 16 seats

Cost: 1000 Yen For Lunch, 1000 Yen For Dinner

### **Shop Name: Garufu Tenmonkan branch /**

This is a casual ramen shop, where you pre purchase your meal using the ticket machine on entry (cash only). The items are written in Japanese but staff are helpful and will come over with an English menu with pictures and help you when ordering. We highly recommend the miso ramen with the addition of an egg on top – obviously with a side of gyoza!

Address: Oak bld. 1F 14-3 Higashisengoku-cho Kagoshima City

891-0115 7 1F

TEL: +81-99-227-7588

Card: NO (cash only)

Purchase tickets from the vending machine and pass to the shop staff.

Cost: 1000 Yen For Lunch, 1000 Yen For Dinner

Sweets/Dessert -

Kagoshima's unique sweet is called karukan. It is made from yam, rice powder and sugar and can only be found in Kagoshima. This is a traditional local sweet wagashi shop.

Shop Name : Akashiya / Akashiya Saryo /

Address : 4-16 Kinsei-cho,kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 226 0431

Opening Hours: 9:00am-7:00pm

# Detailed itinerary

Card: NO (cash only)

Cost: 1000 Yen

## Shop Name : Parissri El Mundo

Try the cake sitting in or taking away. If you eat in you can enjoy complimentary tea and coffee to go with your dessert.

Address : 11-1 Nakamachi,kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 (0) 99 223 5959

Opening Hours: 9:00am-7:00pm

CARD: NO (cash only)

Cost: 1000 Yen



## SOLARIA HOTEL KAGOSHIMA

**Location:** Kagoshima

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard - double - Breakfast included

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# Sunday 22 October 2023



## RAIL JOURNEY

# Detailed itinerary

## Bullet train with your ticket

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**Booking Details:** TKE2217105

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**Depart:** 10:32 Kagoshima Station

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**Arrive:** 11:51 Hakata Station

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## ANA CROWNE PLAZA FUKUOKA

**Location:** Fukuoka

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**Check-in date:** 22/10/2023

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**Check-out date:** 23/10/2023

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**Your room booking:** 1x Standard room - double - Breakfast included

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**Our rating:** Medium

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## Monday 23 October 2023



## FUKUOKA HAKATA STATION TO FUKUOKA AIRPORT

### Unaccompanied journey by subway

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# Detailed itinerary



*'Use your Pasma Card for this journey'*

From Hakata Station the airport is around five minutes away by subway on the Kuko (airport) line.

## FLIGHTS

### Fukuoka Airport to Tokyo Haneda International Airport

**Flight number:** BA4606

**Airline:** British Airways

**Operated by:** Japan Airlines

**Dep:** 10:10

**Arr:** 11:45

**Class:** Economy

**Passengers:** Stephen Graham Copinger Lawrence

## FLIGHTS

### Tokyo Haneda International Airport to London Heathrow Airport

**Flight number:** BA6

## Detailed itinerary

**Airline:** British Airways

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**Operated by:** British Airways

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**Dep:** 13:15

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**Arr:** 19:55

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**Class:** Premium Economy

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**Passengers:** Stephen Graham Copinger Lawrence

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**WELCOME HOME**

**no further arrangements with Audley Travel**

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# Car Hire

## CAR HIRE IN JAPAN

We have chosen the most appropriate car hire company to suit your itinerary. We base our decision on convenience (different companies operate out of different locations & airports), reliability, quality of the fleet and levels of service. Your car is likely to be an automatic gear car (as is often used in Japan), either a five door hatchback or sedan. It will comfortably seat four adults and the boot will hold a couple of good size suitcases. All cars are air-conditioned with a CD player and a GPS system.

The Japanese drive on the left-hand side of the road. Although cities can be gridlocked and therefore public transport is the better option, out in the countryside, having the freedom of a car can enhance the trip significantly in order to 'get off the beaten track'.

IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU HAVE AN **INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S PERMIT (IDP)** BEFORE TRAVELLING TO JAPAN FOR USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUR OWN LOCAL PERMIT, without which you will not be able to hire a car in Japan. This can be done easily at most post/mail offices and on the day. It is valid for 12 months from the date of issuance so please assure it will be valid over the duration of your trip.

We also recommend renting a pocket WIFI so you can access the internet to help you navigate. Please speak to your specialist about hiring this if they haven't discussed it with you already.

The voucher you receive in your welcome pack upon arrival in Japan will also show you where you should pick up and drop off the car, and any times if applicable. Please hold onto this voucher as you will need to give this to the car rental company. Your meet and greet guide at

# Car Hire

the airport will hand you details of the rent-a-car office in your welcome pack.

When you pick-up the car you will be asked to show your driver's permit and international permit, so do ensure that these are on your person and to hand (if you plan to designate more than one driver for the vehicle, all names must be declared at this point and permits presented). You may be offered additional insurance cover for an extra fee at this time. This is called 'Rental Car Assistance Pack' (also known as RAP), however this is entirely optional. Your pre-booked rental service includes standard insurance cover.

All road signs are written in both English and Japanese, so you should be able to navigate quite easily, however most clients will use the GPS installed as an easier way to navigate. A guide with tips on using your GPS can be found below.

## **Unlimited mileage (in kms) and vehicle insurance**

All vehicles have the required insurance cover so that you are able to drive them away immediately, which is what many people choose to do. You may be asked to sign an insurance document which will be written in Japanese. Please sign this - we can assure you that the document is valid and a necessary requirement for the car hire.

## **Petrol**

Please return the car with a full tank. At most Japanese service stations staff will fill the car up for you and also give your windscreen a wipe over free of charge. Simply pull up to the pump and ask the attendant for *mantan kudasai*, literally "full tank please". They will then take payment and give you your change and/or receipt without you

# Car Hire

ever having to get out of the car. It is very uncommon to see self-service stations in Japan. The most common service stations are *Eneos* and *Jomo*, but there are countless others. Please note that some stations do not accept credit cards, especially at the more rural locations so you will need to ensure you have plenty of cash on your person. You can tell which side your gas tank is on by looking at the arrow on the side of the gas tank meter on your dashboard. Some gas stations can give you a voucher that indicates you have filled the tank fully which you can provide to your rental car company as proof.

The following terms may also be useful for reference:

<re-gu-ra> Regular (unleaded) petrol

<man-tan ku-da-sai> Please fill the tank

## **Driving restrictions**

The Japanese drive on the left-hand side of the road in a right-hand drive car. The typical speed limits are 80 to 100 km/h on expressways, 40 km/h in urban areas, 30 km/h in side streets and 50 to 60 km/h elsewhere, however, it is quite usual for drivers to exceed the speed limits by about 10 km/h. Please note though that Japanese police will stop and fine speeding drivers, particularly in Hokkaido and Kyushu where people are most likely to break the speed limits due to the wide, open roads. If you pass through a long tunnel it is customary to switch on your headlights. *Do note though that it is very customary for Japanese patrol cars to drive round with their lights flashing so please do not be too alarmed.*

It is your responsibility to follow all signs and laws while driving in Japan. Common restrictions to bear in mind:

1. Stop at all train tracks as you would at a stop sign.

# Car Hire

2. Stop at all red lights, you can't turn on red lights in Japan as in some parts of North America.
3. Pedestrians and cyclists always have the right of way.
4. There is a zero tolerance policy on drinking and driving, if you have consumed any alcohol you cannot drive.
5. Speeding in Japan carries very heavy fines, often around 80,000 JPY.

In the event that you are brought pulled over, they will typically use a siren and megaphone rather than just lights. Pull over in a safe place and give them your licence, international driving permit, and your passport if they request it. You will be asked to acknowledge the violation and sign and fingerprint a record. You will then be given your payment slip which must be paid in a specified amount of time at a post office or bank. This usually takes about 30 minutes, and often can't be done on weekends so plan accordingly.

## **Toll roads**

Most roads in Japan are toll free with the exception of highways, expressways and some scenic driving routes. For scenic routes you are charged the toll before you join the road, on expressways you are charged when you exit the road. The barriers are clearly marked - on expressways there are usually two gates; one marked "general" and one marked "ETC" (a payable card in Japan that you may or may not have). **Unfortunately the car hire companies in Japan do not include ETC card rental as part of the pre-booked service, so, if the cards are available, you may choose to pay a small fee to hire the ETC card for the duration of your hire.** If you have the ETC card, you can exit the toll road via the purple/blue 'ETC' gates and it will add the fee to your balance, which you will pay when you drop off

# Car Hire

the car hire. If you do not have the ETC card, you can exit the toll roll via the green 'General' gates, where you can pay any fee by cash or card.

## **Parking**

Be prepared to pay for public parking across Japan, and this applies to many hotels and ryokans as well. The fees will vary from location to location but as a general guideline will fall between 800 – 2,000 JPY per day for accommodation and 200-800 JPY per hour in the so-called coin parking lots available for public use. For national parks, temples, shrines and similar sites, expect a flat fee of around 200-500 JPY.

These parking areas will almost always been well-staffed and you'll be flagged in by an attendant showing you exactly how and where to park, which is endearing, comical or a bit over the top, depending on how you look at it. It's also a good idea to keep some cash for these situations in case cards aren't accepted.

Multi-storey car parks work as you would expect, where you take a ticket upon entry and then pay when you exit, and if you eat or do some shopping then it's worth enquiring about validation or a discount before you depart.

You'll commonly come across coin parking lots in Japan which are open 24 hours and entirely self service parking with no staff. These will be marked quite clearly with a 'P' sign for parking. The spaces have small ramp like structures in them. When you enter, simply back into an available spot, driving over the ramp, where shortly after a barrier will be raised to register when you entered the lot and to block your car in. When you return to your car, first head to the payment machine for the lot and enter your space number. Once you have paid the

# Car Hire

appropriate amount shown the barrier will lower for you to exit the lot. These machines are quite often only in Japanese but will have some images and numbered steps showing which buttons to press and should be fairly straightforward to use. If you're struggling, kindly ask a passerby to help – in Japan, most everyone is more than happy to do so.

The final type of parking in Japan are the car lifts. These often exist in cities and/or attached to hotels so you may well encounter these. These will be staffed by an attendant who will show you what to do, but essentially you will need to take your suitcase and anything else you need out of the car, before driving it on to the car lift. The space on these is usually quite narrow but the attendant will help guide you in. Once you have left your car it will be whisked off by the lift! Payment will be made to the attendant or in the hotel itself.

## **GPS and navigation**

All rental cars will be equipped with a GPS system. Most systems can be configured by the staff of the rental shop to English, but in more rural areas this might not be possible. It is useful as a reference tool none-the-less. The simplest way to locate your next destination is enter the phone number of the hotel/place of interest, or by entering a map code. Some of these will be included in your final documents, but if you need another map code, you can search for these on [japanmapcode.com](http://japanmapcode.com) simply by searching for the place you wish to visit. Note that this often does not contain specific hotels/restaurants, so in this case it is better to use a phone number. Note that Japan map code gives you a reference which is 11 digits. The last two digits, which come after the \* symbol, are not required and if you enter these the sat nav will not recognise the map code. If you would like paper



# Car Hire

driving maps in English these are best sourced online before you arrive in Japan. You can also use an app to locate map codes globally such as <https://www.mapcode.com/> which can help with navigation.



# Car Hire

# Insider knowledge

## **JAPAN**

### **Language**

Japanese is the official language. Some English is spoken in major cities. Transport signs are typically written in both Japanese characters and an English alphabet equivalent, and there are usually English announcements on the major train routes. If you need to convey some simple information or requests to a non-English speaker, online automated language translation services are constantly improving and many travellers find these useful. Also, some applications feature a 'camera' function that is able to read and translate Japanese characters in real-time, so these can be useful for navigating a menu. Speak with your Country Specialist if you have any queries.

### **Money & tipping**

Despite the high levels of technology and development, Japan remains a largely cash-dependent culture, (thanks to the low crime rates that still prevail), although we are now experiencing a more widespread use of credit cards. Do not be afraid to carry cash on your person as Japan is an extremely safe and honest country.

There is no culture of tipping in Japan, and nobody expects it.

### **Keeping in touch**

The international code for Japan is +81. Remember to drop the (0) off if calling with the international code. Phone signals and internet connections are excellent in the cities and even in the rural areas, the coverage should still be good.

# Insider knowledge

## **Food & drink**

Japan has one of the world's most sophisticated food cultures, with cuisine based upon subtle aromas, fresh seasonal ingredients and an absence of richness. Waiter service is common in bars and there are no licensing hours. There are innumerable bars and restaurants in cities so it is strongly recommended to eat and drink out, rather than at hotel bars and restaurants (though many of those are excellent, they typically close early).

It is seen as very bad etiquette in Japan if you make a reservation and then do not turn up, so please make sure you cancel any bookings you don't intend to make. It is wildly accepted in high-end restaurants to take some form of payment to secure your table and to choose from their set-menu beforehand.

## **FUKUOKA**

### **Restaurant recommendation:**

#### **Shuto Sushi / - *sushi***

5-9 Tsunabamachi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka

Tel: +81 92-272-1324

A small and traditional sushi counter where the chef prepares to order in front of you. English isn't spoken here but as you order a from a small selection of seat meals, with hand signals and an open mind you can enjoy some fantastic sushi. Please ask your hotel to call ahead and book you in as there are limited seats available at the counter.

# Insider knowledge

Price: 2,000 – 5,000 JPY pp set lunch, 9,000 – 17,000 JPY pp set dinner

Reservations: not accepted

## **KAGOSHIMA**

Kagoshima has two train stations, the main station being the newer Chuo station (formerly the Nishi-Kagoshima station) in the west of the city. If arriving by train you will almost certainly arrive here (limousine buses from the airport also terminate here). Both stations have tourist information offices where you can grab a map of the city.

### **Restaurant recommendations:**

#### **Sushi-kan - *sushi***

14-7 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel: +81 99 224 9999

Price: 2,500 JPY pp for lunch and 10,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended

#### **Tempura Sazen**

4f 11-6 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel: +81 99 225 3677

Price: 2,000 JPY pp for lunch and 5,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [tenpura-sazen.jp](http://tenpura-sazen.jp)

# Insider knowledge

## **Kurokatsu-tei Tenmonkan Branch - *tonkatsu***

2-2 Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel: +81 99 213 9600

This bustling restaurant specialises in kurobuta, and in particular the classic "kurobuta tonkatsu."

Price: 1,500 JPY pp for lunch and 5,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [kurokatutei.net](http://kurokatutei.net)

## **Ichi-ni-san - *kurobuta shabu shabu***

2.3f 11-6 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel: +81 99 225 2123

Kagoshima Kurobuta (black boar) are fed on sweet potatoes (called *satsuma-imo* in Kagoshima). Eat the pork with the *dashi* stock soup for soba (Normally shabushabu beef is eaten with ponzu and sesame sauce)

Price: 3,000 JPY pp for lunch and 10,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [www.kurokatutei.net](http://www.kurokatutei.net)

## **Tenjimbou Marushin - *soba***

2f 8-22 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 99 222 4565

A great place for soba, this is a small and friendly cafe. Sake is also served here.

Price: 1,500 JPY pp for lunch and 4,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended

## Insider knowledge

### **Kagoshima Ramen Tontoro Tenmonkan Arcade Branch - ramen**

11-15 Higashi Sengoku-cho, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 99 226 7755

This is a casual place where local people stop by to eat ramen noodles. The soup is thick with dashi stock of pork, chicken and fish.

Price: 1,000 JPY pp for lunch and 1,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: not accepted

### **Akashiya / Akashiya Saryo / - sweets/ dessert**

1 Chome-6-1 Yakushi, Kagoshima-city

Tel : +81 99 226 0431

Kagoshima's unique sweet is called *karukan*. It is made from yam, rice powder and sugar and can only be found in Kagoshima. This is a traditional local sweet wagashi shop.

Cost: 1,000 JPY pp (cash only)

Reservations: not accepted, visit <https://www.akashiya.co.jp>

## **KUMAMOTO**

Kumamoto is a pleasant castle town which has its place in Kyushu's turbulent history as the island's major government stronghold during the Shogun period. With two of Kyushu's most famous sights - the castle and the stroll garden - Kumamoto is a good place to stop in its own right, as well as being an excellent base for exploring central Kyushu.

# Insider knowledge

## **KUROKAWA**

Kurokawa Onsen is one of Japan's finest hot spring resorts; time here should be spent slowly and without a thought to the outside world. The select ryokan accommodations in Kurokawa all pipe mineral rich onsen spring water into their properties, and many feature wonderful outdoor rotemburo baths; there are few simpler pleasures than soaking in a natural hot bath after a day's exploration. A preservation order has been issued by local government to keep the traditional character of the town in place.

## **NAGASAKI**

Nagasaki is well-known for 'shippoku ryori' which mixes Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese influences.

### **Restaurant recommendations:**

#### **Ryotei Kagetsu - *shippoku***

850-0902 Nagasaki, Maruyamamachi, 21

Tel: +81 95-822-0191

This Japanese cuisine, mixed with Chinese and Portuguese influences, has taken a particular form in Nagasaki and established in 1642 Kagetsu is one of the most historic locations to enjoy it.

Price: 10,000-18,000 JPY pp for lunch: 23,000-33,000JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [www.ryoutei-kagetsu.co.jp](http://www.ryoutei-kagetsu.co.jp)



# Insider knowledge

## **Asa Dejima - *sashimi***

13-3 Dejimamachi, Nagasaki

Tel: +81 95-811-1388

For a more traditional Japanese experience, try Asa Dejima. This place specialises in elaborately prepared sashimi and booking ahead is recommended. They also have an English menu. The restaurant is located close to the museum of art and Dejima island near the centre of town. The best way to reach it is to take the subway to Tsukishima station, cross the bridge and continue down the road. Asa Dejima should be on your 2nd left and visible from the main street.

Reservations: recommended, visit [www.nagasaki-asa.com](http://www.nagasaki-asa.com)

## **OKAYAMA**

Located on the Southern coast of the mainland Chugoku area, Okayama city is the capital of Okayama prefecture. The city was a significant regional power in the Edo period and this is reflected in the grand Okayama castle to the West of the city. Perhaps even more notable than the castle, the Korakuen gardens are nestled in to a bend in the Asahi river that snakes down from the Northern mountains to the Okayama port. Korakuen is ranked as one of the three best landscape gardens in Japan, along with Kanazawa's Kenrokuen and Mito's Kairakuen.

Okayama's main station is served by the Tokaido bullet train allowing visitors easy access to the city centre. When leaving the East gates of the station, it is just over a kilometre straight ahead to get to the gardens and castle. This route can be walked but to avoid the urban

# Insider knowledge

sprawl, a trip via the Korakuen bus or Higashiyama tram line may be preferred.

## TOKYO

### Restaurant recommendations:

#### Ichiran Ramen – *ramen*

##### **Shinjuku kabuki-cho store**

160-0021 1-17-10 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo-to

Tel: +81 3-6233-7667

##### **Asakusa store**

111-0032 B1F, 1-1-16 Asakusa Taito-ku Tokyo-to

Tel: +81 3-6674-8847

##### **Shimbashi store**

105-0004 B1F, 2-5-6 Shimbashi Minato-ku Tokyo-to

Tel: +81 3-3591-6188

Ichiran is a chain of ramen restaurants scattered throughout the city and is often hailed as the most popular ramen restaurant for Tokyoites. The seating format is solo booths, but you can remove the partition to dine as a group. You won't need a reservation but there may be a queue at peak times.

Price: 1,000-2,000 JPY per person

Reservations: not accepted, visit <https://en.ichiran.com/shop/tokyo/>

#### **Kobe beef Teppanyaki Pandora Takumi – *Teppanyaki beef***

160-0023 Tky-to, Shinjuku City, Nishishinjuku, 1-chme133

## Insider knowledge

Nishi-Shinjuku building 2F

Tel: +81 3-3344-3808

Try some of the globally renowned Kobe beef cooked teppanyaki-style right in front of you. Master chef Minami is well-known on the Shinjuku restaurant scene for his iron griddle cooking techniques. You can sit at the counter and watch the wagyu being prepared a couple of metres away. We would recommend reserving a table through your hotel reception.

Price: 10,000-50,000 JPY per person

Reservation: recommended, visit [shinjyuku-pandora.com](http://shinjyuku-pandora.com)

### **Makoto Shinjuku - *Sushi***

160-0023, Island Annex 6-2-3 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 103

Tel: +81 3-6304-5266

A great choice for *omakase* (chef's selection) sushi amidst the bustling Shinjuku streets. The intimate 18 seat venue offers both table and counter seating, but we would recommend the counter seats so that you are close to the action. It opens at 5pm every night except for public holidays and last orders are at 9:30pm.

Price: 6,000-10,000JPY per person

Reservations: recommended, visit [sushimakoto.jp](http://sushimakoto.jp)

### **Gado-shita – *Izakaya dining***

100-0011 Tokyo, Shinbashi, 1 Chome3 1F

Tel:+81 50-2019-7191

## Insider knowledge

Not a specific restaurant but an area that's name translates roughly as “under the train tracks.” The Ginza line runs directly over the strip of local, salt-of-the-earth eateries so diners occasionally feel the shudder of the train passing over their heads. This only adds to the boisterous, smoky atmosphere cultivated by locals unwinding after a long day of work – it’s referred to as “Salaryman heaven.” All the Izakaya restaurants serve Japanese soul food from sushi to yakitori. Definitely a good option for anyone who wants to throw themselves into the Tokyoite lifestyle. Most shops are open from 5pm until late into the evening and very few are bookable online. There might be a wait during peak evening times.

You can access Gado-shita from Hibiya, Ginza and Yurakucho stations in less than a 5 minute walk. Make your way to Yurakucho station (elevated above street level) and follow the train tracks in a Southwest direction. You’ll notice the noise and lights once you arrive.

Price: 2,000-5,000 JPY per person

### **Aoi Marushin - *Tempura***

1-4-4, Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 111-0032

Tel: +81 3-3841-0110

Aoi Marushin specialises in tempura – a type of cuisine that the Asakusa district is well-known for. The deep-fried vegetables and seafood are the main speciality alongside various side dishes. It’s a popular lunch spot but if you are around in the area in the evening, they are open until 9pm with the last orders being at 8:30pm. You can’t reserve so it’s a case of first come, first served.

Price: 2,000-8,000 JPY per person

## Insider knowledge

Reservations: recommended, visit <https://tabelog.com/tokyo/yoyaku>

### **Gonpachi Nishiazabu – *Various Japanese dishes***

1-13-11 Nishi-Azabu, Minato 106-0031, Tokyo

Tel: +81 50-5443-1691

Famous for being the set of a fight scene in Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill, a visit to this restaurant is an experience before you've even ordered your food. They serve a mixture of Yakitori (chargrilled skewers) and grilled fish. The menus are diverse so good for groups that want to try a bit of everything. As you enter, you'll see a wall of pictures with famous diners the place has served including Sylvester Stallone and Keanu Reeves. We highly recommend booking at least a couple of days in advance as it is very popular.

Price: 2,000-8,000 JPY per person

Reservations: recommended, visit [gonpachi.jp](http://gonpachi.jp)

### **Yoroniku - *Yaki-niku (Japanese barbeque)***

150-0013 Tokyo, Shibuya City, Ebisu, 1 Chome115, Gems Ebisu 8F

Tel: +81 3-3498-4629

There are plenty of Japanese barbeques scattered throughout Tokyo but Yoroniku is one of our favourites. Every table has an in-built grill which you use to cook the various cuts of raw meat on offer. The interactive nature of the dining experience makes the meat that much more satisfying to eat.

Price: 10,000-15,000 JPY per person

Reservations: recommended, visit <https://tabelog.com/>

# Insider knowledge

## KYOTO DETAILS

### Kyoto

#### Restaurant recommendations

**Note:** Restaurants' day of closing varies wildly so it's best to get your hotel concierge to phone ahead in case it's closed. The more traditional places will have *noren* or a short curtain hanging from the door frame; an easy-to-spot sign that the restaurant is open for business. As is often the case in the backstreets of Japan, restaurants may not be easy to find so do ask around if stuck.

Savor Japan (<https://savorjapan.com/>) is an excellent website for finding a range of restaurant options across Japan.

We've collated some of our favourite restaurants in the city. They are a mixture of low to mid-range restaurants. For high end dining, your hotel concierge is your best contact as they often have relationships with the high-end restaurants which can be difficult to book. These recommendations can be easier to walk in without a reservation, but we would suggest asking your hotel reception to reserve a table a couple of days in advance for most low to mid-end restaurants.

#### **Yoshikawa - *tempura***

Yoshikawa Ryokan, Tominokouji, Oike-sagaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto  
6048093

Nearest Station: Kyoto Shiyakusho-mae

Tel: +81 75 221-5544

Some of the best tempura in Japan is served here, in the beautiful surrounds of the Yoshikawa Ryokan. Dine at the counter to watch the

## Insider knowledge

chef in action. The tempura kaiseki set is highly recommended. The Yoshikawa Ryokan is located just off Oike-dori street (running east to west), between Kawaramachi and Karasuma-dori streets (north to south). It is very well known, and taxi drivers will be able to take you there easily.

Price: 10,000 JPY pp for lunch - 12,000–25,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [www.kyoto-yoshikawa.co.jp](http://www.kyoto-yoshikawa.co.jp)

### **Apollo Plus- *grilled meats and fish***

604-8111 Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto, Neos Sanjo 2.3F, Nakagyo Ward, 67 Masuyacho

Tel: +81 75-253-6605

A small izakaya located in the Sanjo area of Kyoto, with a relaxed and lively atmosphere. If possible, try to get a seat at the counter. Without a doubt, the best dish on the menu here is the fillet steak, which is likely to be one the best beef steaks you'll ever taste. A little tricky to find in the heart of Gion. You will see Apollo + on the map below.

Price: 3,500–5,000 JPY pp for dinner

Reservations: recommended, visit [www.kyo-apollo.jp](http://www.kyo-apollo.jp)

### **Kara-Kusa Curry – *Japanese curry***

600-8092 248 Shimmeicho, Shimogyo-ku

Tel: +81 75-525-3235

A short walk from both Shijo and Karasuma stations, Kara-Kusa curry is a small, counter only restaurant serving up excellent Japanese curry. The restaurant is walk ins only, and seats fill up fast so it is best to go early or prepare to queue.

# Insider knowledge

Price: 1,500 JPY pp for curry and a drink.

Reservations: not accepted

## **Kyoto cafes and coffee**

Outside of Tokyo, Kyoto has the best selection of boutique coffee shops in Japan. It also has its own style of coffee, the slow-drip coffee, where water is filtered slowly through the coffee grounds. The below are a few of our favourite coffee shops in the city.

### **Café Bibliotic Hello!**

650 Seimeicho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-0951

Tel: +81 75-231-8625

Just north of downtown Kyoto, this café is easy to spot with its array of greenery outside. Housed in a converted Machiya, the space is equally as beautiful inside and has great food and coffee, thanks to the small bakery that shares the building.

<http://cafe-hello.jp>

### **Weekenders Coffee Tominokoji**

560 Honeyanocho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8064

Tel: +81 75-746-2206

This little coffee oasis is hidden at the back of a car park in downtown Kyoto. The owners roast their own coffee which has a lighter roast than the typical Kyoto style. There is no seating here except a small bench so you may want to get it to take away.

<https://www.weekenderscoffee.com>



# Need to know

## **SELF-GUIDE APP IN JAPAN**

Before travel you will be provided login details for the personalized Self Guide App which is an excellent resource for your journey.

The app will contain your itinerary, train times, and restaurant, shopping, and sightseeing suggestions including useful details such as opening hours and entrance fees. When you are connected to the internet, you will also be able to take advantage of a handy reference for Japanese train times should you wish to explore on your own. There is also a communication feature which will allow you to receive any important updates and ask questions of our local partners during business hours.

The EXO Self Guide App is available on the Google Play Store (Android users) and the iTunes store (iPhone users), and can be downloaded to a smartphone or tablet. Your specialist will be able to provide you with a link if you have any trouble finding it. Please download the app in advance of your departure. The logo for the app is a compass with a turquoise background and the easiest way to find it is to search 'self guide' in the relevant app store.

Your login details will be sent to you by email.

Once you have downloaded the app and put in your login information, you will be able to download the itinerary for your upcoming trip. We would recommend doing this while connected to Wi-Fi as area maps and guides are rather large.

**Please note that the Audley final documentation pack remains your primary source of information.** Whilst the app is useful for train times, excursion information and additional destination information; it

## Need to know

is provided by our local partners and is not tailored to individual clients. It should be used only as a supplementary resource.

When offline, you will have access to your daily itinerary and guide meeting points (though not the full descriptions of your tours which can be found in your final documents), GPS navigation to points of interest, restaurant recommendations, and a reference guide for embassy contacts, emergency procedures, and customs.

When you are connected to the internet, you will be able to use a notification and communication feature which will allow you to connect with our team on the ground. Please be aware that the 'Talk to Us' non-emergency feature is only for business hours.

### **THE JAPAN RAIL NETWORK**

**Please note:** It is important to keep your travel tickets and/or Japan Rail Pass(es) safe, they cannot be replaced/refunded if lost. In particular make sure you remember to pick up the ticket/pass from the ticket gates after you have inserted it into the machine.

The Japanese Rail network rightly enjoys a worldwide reputation for the punctuality, speed and efficiency of its train services. The majority of the services are operated by Japan Rail (JR), including the famous shinkansen and super express trains, which travel on special tracks from Hokkaido up in the far north all the way through to Kyushu in the south. These 'bullet trains' have platforms in a separate sub-section of the major stations, and you will need to proceed through a second ticket barrier to get to your train.

## Need to know

The easiest way to check route suggestions while in Japan is to use Google Maps. Input your destination and choose the 'directions' option. Google will show you the various routes available with expected durations, and even point out the correct platform for departing trains. While your train times for longer inter-city journeys will be suggested in your Welcome Pack, for intra-city or spontaneous journeys this is a great tool for getting around.

As with most trains, the shinkansen will have different carriages designated as either Reserved (shitei-seki ) or Non-reserved (jiryu-seki ). Reserved seating is normally toward the front of the train, with unreserved carriages toward the rear. Your reserved seat ticket will specify a carriage and the point where the doors open for this particular carriage is clearly marked on the platform edge or on a sign above your head. The shinkansen can be guaranteed to stop at exactly the right point, at exactly the correct time. Finding your seat is then merely a formality.

JR also operates the majority of the local lines, including the Limited Express or Special Express services, and again your seat is clearly indicated, with the carriage specified on the ticket and on the platform (if you have reserved a seat in advance). In some cases other private operators will operate local (intra-city) lines, and separate tickets will be required to ride these. For inter-city journeys, you will use JR trains. Most trains are now all non-smoking although on occasion long distance shinkansen, they may have a small smoking section. Refreshments are normally available on-board, in station concourses and on the platform. Announcements on all major routes will be made both in English and Japanese. Station signs depicting the station name are almost all in both languages, and at the bottom left and right

## Need to know

corners you will see written the preceding and following station names, which will help you in knowing when your stop is coming up.

### **Luggage**

A new rule for oversized luggage came into effect in 2020 along the Tokaido/Sanyo/Kyushu Shinkansen, which connects Tokyo with Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka. Passengers with oversized luggage, i.e. luggage pieces whose height, width and depth add up to more than 160cm, are now required to make a seat reservation in the last row of seats. It is not possible to bring oversized luggage into non-reserved cars.

Passengers without a reservation for their oversized luggage will be asked to move their luggage to a space specified by the train conductor and pay a 1000 yen surcharge which is not covered by the Japan Rail Pass. It is possible to make reservations in advance at ticket offices, ticket machines or online. No plans have been announced to introduce a similar system on other train lines.

Otherwise luggage space is limited to the overhead racks, which can accommodate small suitcases, and the space in front of your seat. Although legroom is usually very generous, carrying large cases may prove problematic and uncomfortable, so it is always better to travel as light as you possibly can.

Most train stations and many tourist information offices have coin or IC card-operated storage lockers where you can store your belongings for a small fee. This allows for 'hands-free' sightseeing. A tip: make sure to photograph your luggage storage receipt after payment, as this

## Need to know

will contains the details of the location of the locker, and the information/code needed to get your luggage back. The dimensions of the large lockers at most train stations are approximately 84cm (height) x 57cm (depth) x 35cm (width) and so will accommodate a standard sized suitcase. Make sure to be aware of any closing times to ensure you will be able to collect your luggage. If left overnight it will incur extra charges.

### **LUGGAGE FORWARDING IN JAPAN**

In Japan, there are a number of companies that provide a fast and simple postal service for you to send on your luggage to your next destination. This is the ideal way to travel unencumbered on Japan's excellent transport service. Taking your luggage on trains is never a simple task and there are regulations which require the pre-booking of larger pieces of luggage. The nation-wide luggage forwarding service is extremely reliable and we would recommend that you use it at every opportunity to ensure a smoother trip.

You can forward your luggage from and to any accommodation or airport in Japan. All hotel/ryokan staff are well-acquainted with the process. You simply hand over the luggage at the front desk, they will measure the size of the luggage, ask you to fill out the details of where you want the luggage sending to and will finally charge you a 'pay-on-the-spot' fee which is decided by the size (not weight) of the individual piece of luggage. We find that typically this fee is around 1500-2000 JPY per item of luggage.

*Please note that in the majority of cases, this is an overnight service so you will need to prepare a small overnight bag (usually your hand luggage) for the time you are without your main cases. In some cases,*

## Need to know

*for longer distances or during exceptionally busy times, the service can take 2 days. Your hotel staff will always have the most up to date information about this service so it is worth checking with them in advance.*

### **SNACK FOOD IN JAPAN**

Japan is the home of convenience and once you leave Japan it's quite hard to adapt to life again without a convenience store around every street corner! Other than snack food for breakfast and lunch, you can buy hearty prepackaged evening meals, little bites to eat for a train journey (although eating on trains other than the bullet train is discouraged!), drinks of every variety from melon soda to cold sake, baked items and a decent selection of food suitable for those with dietary requirements. In fact, we recommend the 7 Eleven brand of convenience store for exchanging money as their ATMs will readily accept international bank cards and are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Although not an extensive list of what is on offer in the local convenience store, here are some items to cater to all:

The ubiquitous rice ball or **onigiri** - *a triangular shaped ball of rice often wrapped in seaweed and with a filling*

More common fillings are chicken, tuna and fish roe which you can spot from the illustration on the packaging. Less obvious ones are:

**Plain** – rice, salt, vinegar and oil - plain packaging with white onigiri (ie no seaweed)

## Need to know

**Wakame** (Seaweed) – as above with flecks of seaweed within the rice -this often contains 'dashi' or fish stock

**Konbu** (Kelp) – as above with seaweed outer layer and chewy kelp sticks inside - this will more often than not contain 'dashi'.

**Umeboshi** (Sour plum) – illustrated with a red paste-like substance

**Azuki** (Red bean) – often the rice is reddened by the bean

Slight variations to the onigiri are:

**Natto** (Fermented soy bean) roll - this may contain katsuo (bonito fish)

**Inari Zushi** (rice in a sweetened tofu 'pocket')

### Noodles

Ramen shops are everywhere and good cheap comfort food, or late-night dining option. Convenience stores are good places for noodles on the go:

**Soba** - spaghetti-like light brown buckwheat noodles are a good gluten-free option although do pay attention to the sauce which will normally contain 'dashi'

**Udon** - fatter white wheat noodles for the vegetarians/vegans - note it will be the same sauce as above

# Need to know

(A good idea and a very Japanese way of eating them is with soy sauce so it's useful to buy some tamari soy sauce to take with you if gluten free is required)

## Salads

Most salads will be in clear packaging so it is easy to see if it's a plain salad or with tuna etc. They usually come with a salad dressing attached which you will need to pay attention to. Most will be an oil dressing or a creamy sesame seed dressing. You can always buy a separate bottle of dressing to use while away.

## Snacks

**Edamame** - usually in sachets and already steamed (in a hot tray) or to use in the microwaves available in store.

You can also buy red kidney beans (**kintokimame**) and black beans (**kuromame**) in snack-sized packaging.

**Anman** - steamed bun containing red bean paste / **Anmitsu** - sweet bean dessert / **Azuki Ais** - red bean ice cream

You will find *anman* by the counter in a hot tray. 7 Eleven and Family Mart do not contain egg or milk but it is worth bearing this mind for others.



## Need to know

Finally, all convenience stores sell a whole host of fruit and nuts. It is worth noting the outer packaging for any sign of dried fish that are mixed with some nut snacks.

## Need to know

# Travel advice

## PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION

### JAPAN

When travelling for leisure purposes, British, Canadian and US nationals, among many other nationalities, can stay in Japan for up to 90 days without a visa.

Nationalities of other countries should check their visa requirements.

### MEDICINES

Japan is notoriously strict on narcotics, and of course it goes without saying that it's imperative to be as careful as possible when bringing anything that could be deemed problematic. It is prohibited to take *certain* medicines into Japan. All drugs containing **codeine** and **pseudoephedrine** (commonly found in Sudafed and Vicks inhalers) are banned and should not be brought into country.

Up to two months' supply of allowable over-the-counter medication and up to four months' supply of allowable vitamins can be brought into Japan duty-free. Generally, up to one month's supply of allowable prescription medicine can be brought into Japan. There are some prescription medicines that cannot be imported so make sure to check with your home country's official authority.

The general 3 rules are: to keep in the original packaging (i.e. do not decant into a travel pill box for example), to keep to the correct amount needed for your trip, and to bring a copy of the relevant prescriptions.

It is essential that those who must carry more than one month's supply (except prohibited drugs and controlled drugs), or are carrying syringes (pumps), are required to obtain what is called a "Yakkan

# Travel advice

Shoumei", or an import certificate in advance, and show the "Yakkan Shoumei" certificate with your prescription medicines at customs. This takes around four-six weeks to complete.

## **GENERAL ADVICE**

Please use the online tool below to search for the latest information on entry requirements including testing, vaccination and visa requirements by destination. For the most accurate information, input the dates you're planning to travel, passport details, and Covid-19 vaccination status.

<https://www.audleytravel.com/entryrequirements>

Please double check that your passport is valid for six months beyond the date of return from your trip.

We recommend that you take photocopies of your passports, driving licenses, insurance and other important documents and keep them separately from the originals. This can be helpful if the originals are lost during your travels.

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## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

# Travel advice

## **JAPAN**

It is essential that you visit your doctor or travel clinic prior to travel. Even if time is short, an appointment is still worthwhile. This will ensure that you have taken all the necessary health precautions, taking into account the destinations you are travelling to, planned activities and your own medical history. For those with pre-existing health problems, please be aware that some vaccinations and antimalarials can be incompatible with certain medicines or medical conditions.

Your doctor will be able to provide up to date immunisation advice for Japan, but you should be up to date with the recommended vaccinations for your home country.

Specific health and certificate requirements per country are subject to change, please always check Travel Health Pro <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/> and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/> prior to travel for the latest health advice.

## **Insect Bite Avoidance**

Some mosquito and insect borne diseases and viral infections are a risk in certain areas of the country. These may have mild symptoms but can have very serious consequences. There is currently no vaccine against many mosquito borne illnesses and bite prevention remains the most effective way to avoid infection. Mosquitoes can bite at any time, both indoors and outdoors. Precautions against getting bitten are essential. These include covering up where possible with loose clothing, long sleeves and long trousers, using a mosquito net if sleeping or resting in unscreened accommodation day or night, and

# Travel advice

using a suitable insect repellent on exposed skin. 50% DEET is considered to be the most effective, has the longest duration of action and needs fewer applications per day. Take plenty of supplies with you in case there is a shortage. If you feel unwell and have a high fever or other symptoms either during or after travel, seek prompt medical help and make sure you mention your travel history.

## **Other Specific Information for your Destination**

Healthcare in Japan is of a high quality but is expensive. Medication and drugs are of a similar standard to the West, but are expensive, so it's recommended to take any prescription drugs with you. However, please be aware that it is prohibited to take certain medicines into Japan. Drugs containing 1% Codeine Phosphate and 10% Pseudoephedrine (commonly found in Sudafed, Vicks inhalers and some over-the-counter allergy medicines) are not allowed into the country (although can be purchased in-country). If you have any other prescription medicines that you need to take into Japan, you should bring a copy of the relevant prescriptions. You should keep the original packaging and not 'decanter' into travel pill boxes or something similar.

Generally hygiene standards in Japan are incredibly high and it's very rare to suffer from upset stomachs although it is worth mentioning the sporadic use of MSG (monosodium glutamate) to enhance the umami taste in foods which is said to have some side effects (headaches, feelings of discomfort) when consumed in larger quantities.

## **GENERAL ADVICE**

### **Allergies & Special Diets**

## Travel advice

If you have not already done so, please ensure you have made us aware of any allergies or dietary restrictions prior to your departure. Nut allergies and other serious dietary restrictions are not widely understood in some parts of the world. We therefore recommend that you travel with information written in the local language, describing in detail what the allergy is. Your country specialist can assist with this or translation cards are available from various sources online (for example: <https://www.allergyuk.org/our-services/translation-cards/> and <https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/food-allergy-chef-cards>). It is important that you bring this information to the attention of hotel, airline, transport and restaurant staff and reconfirm your requirements are understood at each mealtime.

Other considerations before you travel include:

- Check that your travel insurance covers your specific needs;
- Ensure your allergy medication is up to date and you have sufficient quantities for the duration of your trip;
- Review your personal allergy action plan and ensure your companions are aware of likely allergic symptoms and actions to take. This is particularly important if you are visiting areas where you may be some distance from medical help;
- Ensure that airline staff are informed of a severe food allergy at every opportunity. This is particularly important when checking in at the airport, boarding the flight and EVERY time a snack or meal is offered (as it may be served by a different person);
- If you have a severe allergy, take a pack of wipes with you on the flight to clean down the seating area especially the tray table

**Your Health and Safety while you're away**

# Travel advice

Your health and safety during your trip is of the utmost importance to us. We create trips to many countries around the world, all with differing standards and local regulations. These won't always match the health and safety standards you're used to at home.

Please ensure you've read the latest information on safety and security in your destination before you travel. You can find the UK government's foreign travel advice at:

[www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) .

We also strongly recommend you read the information on our website at [www.audleytravel.com/safetyadvice](http://www.audleytravel.com/safetyadvice). It covers topics such as fire and carbon monoxide safety, balconies, and swimming pools, and is designed to help you have a safe and enjoyable trip.

## **Letting us know of any concerns**

If you ever feel nervous about the safety of an activity, mode of transportation, or hotel, please report it to the supplier (hotel manager, activity operator, etc.), our local ground handling agent (you'll have their contact details in your final itinerary), and your specialist at the earliest opportunity.

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## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your holiday. Please take the time to confirm that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy.

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## **FLIGHTS**



## Travel advice

To read the IATA conditions of carriage, which explain more about the rules governing international air travel, please go to <https://www.audleytravel.com/conditions-of-carriage>. There will be specific additional terms relevant to your airline and your ticket, which you will be able to access online using your airline reference number.