



Discover South Korea & Japan

Visiting [Japan](#) [South Korea](#)

From **\$16,795** Days **28**

Experience the highlights of beautiful South Korea and mesmerising Japan. While these two countries have many similarities, their cultures and traditions are unique. Explore thriving cities, ancient temples, traditional villages and try your hand at culinary and cultural crafts.

 Group Size — **Max 20**

 Tips — Total cost includes - Tipping Made Easy, \$120pp pre-paid (Korea Only). Tipping is not part of the Japanese culture, so tips are not expected

 Transport — Bullet train, Cable Car, Coach, High-speed train, Japanese style houseboat, Local train, Monorail & Plane

 No Hidden Extras

Day

1

Depart Australia

2

Arrive Seoul

Welcome to vibrant Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Enjoy a group welcome dinner tonight.

 D

3

Seoul

Stepping back in time, we'll visit the Korean Folk Village to gain an insight into life during the Joseon Dynasty and enjoy a natural dyeing experience. We'll then explore Samcheongdong Street and Bukchon Hanok Village, before visiting Gyeongbokgung Palace and the iconic N Seoul Tower.

 B

4

Seoul - Sokcho

This morning we travel to Nami Island, famous for its stunning scenery and friendly wildlife. We'll then continue to Sokcho.

 B

5

Mt Seorak Excursion



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Spend a full day exploring stunning Mt Seorak, visiting Sogongwon Park and travelling to Gwongumseong Fortress by cable car, which offers breathtaking views.

We visit Sinheungsa Temple, believed to be the oldest Zen temple in the world.

 B

6

Sokcho - Jeonju

We continue to Jeonju via Pyeongchang, where we will visit the site of the former Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium. This afternoon we'll explore Jeonju's Hanok Village.

 B

7

Jeonju - Muju

We continue towards Muju, visiting beautiful Mt Maisan and the Buddhist Tapsa Temple along the way.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Enjoy a traditional spa experience and try the unique array of facilities and treatments, including 'bubble sense therapy' and 'sound floating'.

 B

8

Muju - Gyeongju



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Learn all about Korea's traditional martial art, taekwondo, and witness an amazing demonstration.

This afternoon we'll travel to Mt Gayasan and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Haeinsa Temple, home to the Tripitaka Koreana - a complete set of engraved Buddhist scriptures. We'll then continue to Gyeongju.

B

9

Gyeongju - Busan



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites of Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, where we'll experience a traditional tea ceremony with monks.

We'll also explore Chomsungdae Observatory, and visit Chonma Royal Tumuli before travelling to Busan.

B

10

Busan

We begin our sightseeing of Busan at scenic Igidae Park to admire the rugged natural scenery. We'll also visit the Oryukdo Skywalk, and the UN Memorial Cemetery.

B L

11

Busan - Seoul

After travelling to Seoul by high-speed train, learn to make Korea's national dish, kimchi. We'll also get a chance to try on the hanbok (traditional Korean dress). Enjoy a nanta (non-verbal comedy) show this evening.

B

12

Seoul

Today we visit the Demilitarised Zone separating North and South Korea. Tonight we'll enjoy a group dinner, accompanied by a traditional Korean performance.

B D

13

Seoul - Tokyo

We fly to Tokyo, Japan's dazzling capital!

B

14

Tokyo

Today is an exciting and fascinating day, dedicated to exploring Tokyo. We begin with a visit to the scenic and spacious Imperial Palace East Garden, which provides a calm oasis amid the bustle of Tokyo. The garden is the former site of Edo Castle's innermost circle of defence. As none of the castle's main buildings remain today, the garden has been created in their place.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Admire the city lights on a dinner cruise around Tokyo Bay in a typical Japanese-style houseboat from the Heian period, known as a Yakatabune.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Watch a sumo wrestling demonstration before enjoying a traditional Chanko Nabe (sumo stew) lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we'll stroll through the shopping district of Ginza on our way to dinner. We'll also experience the hustle and bustle of Shibuya, including the famous Shibuya crossing - one of the busiest in the world! Approximately 3,000 people can make their way across the intersection at any one time.

B L D

15

Tokyo

Enjoy another exciting day exploring one of the world's largest and most cosmopolitan cities. Our first stop is Asakusa Sensoji Temple. This Buddhist temple is one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular. Nakamise shopping arcade is our next destination, one of the best places in Tokyo to purchase souvenirs. We'll then learn the age-old culinary art of making sushi and enjoy the results for lunch. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy at leisure.

B L

16

Tokyo - Hakone

This morning we'll visit a former farming village, Iyashi no Sato Nenba, recently reconstructed and reopened as a museum after being destroyed by a typhoon in 1966. The village has been converted into restaurants, museums and galleries. We'll then arrive in the mountainous town of Hakone, where we'll enjoy a cable car ride on the Hakone Ropeway and see magnificent views of the iconic Mt Fuji (weather permitting). Tonight we will stay in an authentic ryokan guesthouse, where we'll sleep on traditional Japanese-style bedding made up of a futon bed on top of tatami mats on the floor. We will also have the chance to bathe in a natural onsen (hot springs) and enjoy a traditional Japanese dinner.

B D

17

Hakone - Matsumoto - Nagano

Today we'll travel to Matsumoto, where we'll visit its beautiful castle, one of Japan's premier historic castles built in the 16th century.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in Japanese culture during a soba noodle class on our way to Nagano. These delicious noodles are used in a variety of Japanese dishes.

We'll then visit the historic Old Battlefield of Kawanakajima, where the famous provincial battle took place in 1561.

B

18

Nagano - Takayama

We travel to the historic town of Takayama. This city retains a traditional touch, especially in its beautiful old town. We'll explore the narrow streets on foot. Highlights include Takayama Jinya, a beautiful and traditional Japanese building and Sanmachi Street, lined with old-style merchant houses and restaurants.

B

19

Takayama

This morning we'll explore the Miyagawa open air market and see the range of fruits, vegetables and sweets at the numerous stalls. We'll then wander through the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage-listed site of Shirakawago with its famous gasshō-zukuri ('like hands in prayer') thatched roofs, designed to withstand the massive snowfalls of winter. This afternoon we discover the traditional art of Japanese rice paper-making.

 B  L

20

Takayama - Hiroshima

Today we'll take the local train to Nagoya, and then enjoy a bullet-train ride to Hiroshima, located within the Chugoku region. The city was destroyed during World War II, but has since been rebuilt.

 B

21

Hiroshima

We begin today with a cruise to tranquil and sacred Miyajima Island where we'll see the giant Itsukushima Torii Gate. This afternoon we'll visit some of Hiroshima's important sites. Our first stop is Peace Memorial Park, which was built to commemorate the dropping of the atomic bomb. We'll then visit the very moving Peace Memorial Museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome, the city's only remaining bomb-damaged building.

 B

22

Hiroshima - Kyoto

Travelling by bullet train, we make our way to historic Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital. We explore the incredible orange torii gates that make up Kyoto's famous Fushimi Inari Shrine, dedicated to the god of rice and sake in the 8th century. The magical path consists of more than 5,000 gates that wind through the hills at the base of Inari mountain.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Sample the famous Japanese beverage, sake, and learn about the brewing process.

 B

23

Kyoto

We'll discover more about fascinating Kyoto on a half day sightseeing tour. Learn how to wear a Japanese Kimono and discover the history of this traditional garment. Later this morning, we'll experience a Japanese tea ceremony before enjoying a stroll along the Philosopher's Walk. This path was taken by the influential 20th-century philosopher & Kyoto University Professor, Nishida Kitaro, during his meditation.

 B

24

Kyoto

Today is at leisure for you to relax or explore more of Kyoto.

 B

25

Kyoto - Arashiyama - Osaka

This morning we visit the stunning Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion). The temple's top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf and the pavilion is set amongst beautiful gardens. We'll then enjoy a typical Buddhist lunch before touring the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tenryū-ji Temple, ranked first of Kyoto's five great Zen temples. Later we'll walk through the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and visit the Togetsukyo Bridge before travelling to Osaka.

✂ B ✂ L

26

Osaka

This morning we visit Himeji Castle, Japan's largest and most-visited castle. It is regarded as the finest surviving example of Japanese castle architecture.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Learn the way of the Samurai, the warriors of pre-modern Japan, during an interactive lesson. Samurai were elite soldiers and adept with the bow and sword.

Tonight we'll enjoy a group farewell dinner.

✂ B ✂ D

27

Depart Osaka

Today we begin our journey home.

✂ B

28

Arrive Australia

Inclusions



Sightseeing

Urban metropolis

- Visit a Korean Folk Village in Seoul with natural dyeing experience.
- Explore Samcheongdong Street and Bukchon Hanok Village.
- Explore Insadong Street and its multitude of alleys with tea shops, cafes and galleries.
- Visit Gyeongbokgung Palace, the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty built in 1395.
- Visit the iconic N Seoul Tower's observation deck for beautiful views over Seoul.

Breathtaking mountains of Seoraksan National Park

- Visit Nami Island, famous for its tree lined roads and grassy fields.
- Spend time exploring stunning Mt Seorak, including Sogongwon Park, and witness breathtaking views from Gwongummseong Fortress.
- Visit Shinheungsa Temple, believed to be the oldest zen temple in the world.
- Drive through Pyeongchang Olympic Site.
- Delve into the Buddhist Culture on a visit to Naksansa Temple, boasting a 1,300 year history.

Delve into the traditional Korean way of life and experience its culture

- Stroll through a Hanok Village with its traditional 'Hanok' houses.
- Drive to beautiful Mt Maisan and visit the Buddhist Tapsa Temple along the way.
- Experience true Korean culture and try the unique therapies and treatments at Jinan Red Ginseng Spa.
- Tour the new Muju Taekwondowon Centre and witness an amazing demonstration of this traditional Korean martial art.
- Visit the Haeinsa Temple on Mt. Gayasan, home to the Tripitaka Koreana - a complete set of Buddhist scriptures.
- Enjoy a tea ceremony with monks at Bulguksa Temple and Seokguram Grotto.

Discover the diversity of Busan

- Visit the famous Kukje Market, steeped in history and established in 1950.
- Wander through the Jahalchi Fish Market, South Korea's biggest fish market.
- Explore scenic Igidae Park and the Oryukdo Skywalk - a glass bridge stretching out over the ocean.
- Pay tribute to the UN soldiers and aids killed during the Korean War 1950-1953, during a sobering stop at the UN Memorial Cemetery.
- Travel to Seoul from Busan via bullet train.

Korean cuisine, clothing and arts

- Learn the art of making Kimchi, Korea's national dish, and try on a hanbok (traditional Korean dress).
- Enjoy a nanta show - a non-verbal comedy show and popular way to spend an evening in South Korea.

Peer into North Korea

- Visit the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that separates North and South Korea, including Freedom Bridge, Dora Observatory and 3rd Infiltration Tunnel.

Modern and traditional Tokyo

- Enjoy a sumo wrestling demonstration and a traditional Chanko-Nabe lunch.
- Visit Imperial Palace East Garden, a calm oasis in buzzing Tokyo.
- Walk through the famous Ginza district and across Shibuya Intersection.
- Admire the city lights of Tokyo Bay while cruising in a traditional Japanese houseboat.
- Sushi making experience and lunch.
- City sightseeing of Tokyo including Asakusa Sensoji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Arcade.

Majestic mountains and historic towns

- Visit Iyashi no sato Nenba, a former farming village, reopened as a museum.
- Spend a night in a traditional ryokan guesthouse.
- See the iconic Mt Fuji while riding the Hakone Ropeway (weather permitting).
- Visit Matsumoto Castle built in the 16th century and one of Japan's premier historic castles.
- Enjoy a soba noodle making class on the way to Nagano.
- Wander through the historical old battlefield of Kawanakajima, where a famous provincial battle took place in 1561.
- Take in the sights of historic Takayama by foot.
- Wander through Shirakawago, with its famous gasshō-zukuri thatched roofs.
- Learn about the Japanese tradition of washi paper-making in Gokayama.

Sobering and scenic Hiroshima

- See Hiroshima's sites including the giant Itsukushima Torii Gate.
- Tour the Hiroshima Peace Park, built to commemorate the dropping of the atomic bomb. Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome, the city's only remaining bomb-damaged building, and the very moving Peace Memorial Museum.

Japan's cultural heart

- Tour the temples of Kyoto, Japan's former capital and very much the cultural heart of the country. Our tour includes the Kinkakuji (Golden Pavillion), Tenryu-ji Temple and the Fushimi Inari Shrine.
- Explore Kyoto and sample the famous sake beverage.
- Learn how to wear a traditional Japanese Kimono.
- Delve into the custom of a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto.
- Stroll the Philosopher's Walk, the same path influential 20th-Century Philosopher & Kyoto University Professor Nishida Kitaro took during meditation.
- Enjoy a Buddhist lunch at Shigetsu (Tenryu-ji Temple).
- Stroll through the Bamboo forest and see the Togetsukyo Bridge.
- Learn the way of the Samurai in Osaka, Japan's pre-modern warriors.
- Visit Himeji Castle, regarded as one of the finest examples of prototypical Japanese castle architecture.

Travel

- Return economy-class flights from Australia to Asia. Taxes included
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of tour (based on group flight arrival into Seoul and departure from Kansai airport only)
- All touring in air-conditioned vehicles
- High speed train in South Korea
- 2 Bullet train journeys in Japan
- 1 Limited Express train in Japan
- Tipping Made Easy, \$120pp pre-paid (Korea Only). Tipping is not part of the Japanese culture, so tips are not expected

Accommodation

- 24 nights in 3-5 star hotels
- 1 nights in a traditional Ryokan guesthouse, Hakone

Meals

- 25 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners, including group welcome and farewell dinners

Tour Guides

- English-speaking locally based national guide in South Korea
- English-speaking locally based national guide in Japan

Porterage

- Porterage included where available



Some things to note

A note on Torii Gate renovations: From June 2019, Miyajima's famous floating Torii Gate is undergoing renovations, which are expected to take at least one year. During the renovation works, the Torii Gate will be covered under partially transparent scaffolding. A bridge is being built on the left side of the gate to aid the renovation works.

Optional Excursions: Bunnik Tours has a small number of optional extras that may be available to you on your small group tour. These optional extras are based on special-interest activities that don't always appeal to everyone, meaning they're truly optional. To view our optional excursions in Asia click [here](#).