

Altour *presents..*

Cultural Treasures of Japan

Departing
April 11 - 24, 2025



Highlights....

Tokyo • Asakusa Sensoji Shrine • Tea Ceremony • Ginza •
Hakone • Lake Ashi Cruise • Matsumoto Castle • Takayama
Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner • *Kaiseki* Dinner
Shirakawa-go • Kanazawa • Kyoto • Bullet Train • Hiroshima
• Maiko Show

14 Days • 18 Meals: 12 Breakfasts • 6 Dinners

Per Person Rates: **Double \$5,649; Single \$7,149; Triple \$150**

➤ **Included in Price:**

Land Only and Hotel Transfers. Travel Insurance of \$549 not included.

➤ **We only have 10 seats available and on first come first served basis. Pricing valid until 9/12/2024. After that date, pricing may go up.**

COLLETTE EXPERIENCES

- ★ Try your hand at the centuries-old art of the Japanese tea ceremony, gold leaf decorating and stenciling.
- ★ Travel by the famous Shinkansen bullet train.
- ★ Explore the famous Ginza District, the first Western-style shopping district in Japan where modern and history blends.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

Day 2: Tokyo, Japan

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Arrive in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

Day 3: Tokyo

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colorful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 4: Tokyo

Amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial Palace. Later, walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where

modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 5: Tokyo - Hakone

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to sake, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 7: Takayama

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own before enjoying a traditional multi-course *kaiseki* dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 8: Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district, and then onto the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, where more than 25 acres of absolute beauty awaits you at Kenroku-En – Garden of Six Qualities. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 9: Kanazawa

Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the center of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 10: Kanazawa - Kyoto

Explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Then Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. Later, visit the Women's Association of Kyoto in a traditional Kyoto town house. Here, delve into a wide array of enlightening Japanese activities, guided by your knowledgeable hostess. Try your hand at

making sushi and fold intricate origami shapes, as you learn about Japanese culture. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 11: Kyoto - Bullet Train - Hiroshima - Kyoto

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 12: Kyoto

This morning, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 13: Kyoto

Today, visit the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands-on lesson. This afternoon, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture tonight during a special farewell dinner and maiko show. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 14: Kyoto - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It!

Maiko Performance in Kyoto

Step back in time when you witness an important aspect of Japan's culture during a Maiko Show in Kyoto. Literally meaning "dancing child," the maiko is an apprentice geisha, typically under 20 years old. They live in Okiya, under the supervision of seasoned geiko (or "geisha"). They are considered the successors of beauty throughout all of Japan, entertaining guests with traditional Japanese dances, shamisen plays, short songs called "kouta" and in Kyoto they master its unique dialect as well. These young performers work hard to preserve Japan's traditions and customs, creating a dream-like world that feels detached from the daily grind for visitors. This tradition is unique to Kyoto, though it showcases a fascinating history that is traced throughout all of Japan. Be a part of Japan's rich traditions, history and hospitality during this truly unforgettable experience.

YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Day 2 – 4	Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, Tokyo
Day 5	Odakyu Hotel de Yama, Hakone or The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko, Hakone
Day 6, 7	Takayama Green Hotel, Takayama
Day 8, 9	Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa
Day 10 – 13	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto, Kyoto

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Please Note:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

IMPORTANT RESERVATION INFORMATION

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613**

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for

details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Guests may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

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