

ALL-INCLUSIVE FOOD TOUR

INSIDE JAPAN





11 DAYS IN JAPAN

SAMPLE ITINERARY

DESTINATIONS

Osaka
Kyoto
Ishikawa
Tokyo

INCLUSIONS

- 10 nights of accommodations in boutique hotels
- 24/7 Tour Host
- All meals (except 2 dinners)
- Wine tasting & select alcoholic beverages
- Ground transportation
- Airport meet & greet
- Private arrival and departure transfers
- All experiences and locally-guided activities
- Taxes including city taxes at hotel
- Tips for meals, drivers, guides, etc.

DAY ONE - OSAKA

Welcome to Japan! Upon arrival at one of Osaka's International Airports (KIX or ITM), a driver will be waiting for you. They'll take you into the heart of the city in a private car, approximately 45 minutes - 1 hour. Your tour leader, Carly, will meet you at the hotel lobby upon arrival to help with check-in.

We will have a short introduction and welcome before meeting our first local friend, Yoko. Yoko will then introduce you to the city through a walking tour that will feel like strolling the streets with a group of friends. We'll walk through neighborhoods where the locals live, visit a unique, unexpected place where Japanese people get their food.

We'll make our way to the city center for a spirited tour of Osakan life on our way to an izakaya for casual dinner with Yoko. And in the spirit of eating like a local, you'll get a quick Japanese lesson and do some ordering on your own!

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY TWO - OSAKA

We'll kick off our day on a walking and food tour through an off-the-beaten-path neighborhood in Osaka where we'll explore a Japanese shopping street, or shotengai, where loyal customers have been visiting their favorite vendors for decades. Unlike the busy markets with lots of vendors handing out samples, we'll stroll down quieter streets where locals visit daily to shop for tea, fruits, vegetables, tofu, and other staple Japanese pantry provisions.

We'll enjoy lunch in the neighborhood cafe before returning to our hotel. In the evening, we'll meet up with Yoko, as she leads us through a cooking class where we will learn to make regional food and enjoy dishes that are special to Osaka.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY THREE - OSAKA, KYOTO

We'll journey towards a small tea town outside of Kyoto. We'll join our friends who own a small and growing tea business in their fields. Prepare to hike uphill for about 20 minutes (wear good walking shoes!). The reward at the top is a beautiful view of the surrounding tea farms. You'll learn how to pick the perfect tea leaves as well as the process of harvesting and producing tea.

Upon our return to the owner's cafe, we'll stop for a tasting of the tea, learn the differences in flavor, and enjoy a light lunch before jumping back in the van for a 1-hour drive to Kyoto. We will arrive in Kyoto and check in to our hotel where you can relax or explore on your own for a few hours.

Then we'll meet our local guide in the lobby as we begin to explore the city of Kyoto, full of culture and tradition. We'll meander through the picturesque scenes of the Pontocho neighborhood on our way to dinner.

Settle in for an exquisite dinner - a multi-course tempura tasting. You'll watch master chefs lightly fry the delicious vegetables, shrimp, and other items right before your eyes - so you're tasting them as fresh as possible.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY FOUR - KYOTO

We will drive to a local home to have a special, private tea ceremony. First, you'll get to see a collection of real kimonos, handmade in Japan from silk (beware the impostors in many stores advertising "kimonos"). Many kimonos last for decades and are passed down from generation to generation.

After our tea ceremony, we'll head back to the city center for a casual, yet hearty ramen lunch! Enjoy a little free time after lunch to explore the neighborhood cafes before we head out for an elegant evening.

When the sun begins to set, we will duck into a dimly lit machiya (tea house) in the neighborhood of Gion, for a private kaiseki dinner and performance by a Maiko, Kyoto's Geisha-in-training. You'll have an opportunity to play games, ask questions, and gain some insight into a life so vastly different from your own.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY FIVE - KYOTO

We'll set off to Western Kyoto, to experience a side that many visitors don't see. We'll explore a historically preserved neighborhood and temple before strolling through the Arashiyama bamboo forest toward the scenic Okochi Sanso Villa and surrounding gardens.

We'll enjoy a light lunch known as shojin-ryori, Japanese Buddhist cuisine, at the tranquil Tenryuji Temple.

After a peaceful day, enjoy a free evening on your own exploring all that Kyoto has to offer.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY SIX - KYOTO, ISHIKAWA

We'll check out of our hotel and meet in the lobby. You will pack an overnight bag for two nights to take with you to the ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) while the rest of your luggage will be transferred directly to our Tokyo hotel.

We will make our way to Kyoto Station where we will catch an express train for approximately 2 hours to a small hot spring town.

Upon arriving in the small town tucked into the woods, we'll grab soba for lunch and go for a private sake tasting with a sake sommelier.

Then we'll enjoy a walk along the river for about 15 minutes before reaching our quaint, quiet, traditional, tranquil retreat for the night.

After arriving at our ryokan, you will have a short introduction about what it's like to stay in this traditional inn, including how your Japanese rooms with tatami mat floors will be prepared with futons. You'll also learn about the customs for using the traditional shared bathing facilities at the ryokan. The hot spring baths are divided between men and women. Then for dinner, we'll enjoy a traditional kaiseki meal.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY SEVEN - ISHIKAWA

Try your hand at the local craft of wood carving at an artisan's studio where he'll guide you through the process of carving your own bowl on a lathe.

The rest of the day is yours to explore the town and discover its gems on your own! We will equip you with recommendations on what to do and where to do some shopping in the town.

We will regroup at the end of the day to have dinner together at a nearby French Japanese fusion restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY EIGHT - ISHIKAWA, TOKYO

Have a leisurely morning on your own as you relax in the hot spring bath or visit the town again. We'll depart the ryokan together by private vehicle for about a one-hour drive to the train station. There you will choose from a variety of eki-ben, or train bento, options to take with you on the train. Then we'll board our bullet train and head to Tokyo. The speeding journey lasts about 3 hours.

Upon arrival in Tokyo, we'll be met by our English-speaking driver who will take us for a short drive to our boutique hotel in a quieter part of the city.

After settling into our hotel, we'll head to the Ginza neighborhood to contrast the izakayas in Osaka to those in Tokyo. Indulge in local fare as we taste our way through Tokyo with our local guide.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY NINE - TOKYO

We'll meet our tour guide for a day full of sightseeing like a local - taking the cleanest, fastest, most punctual public transportation in the world to visit small eateries, you'll get to see Tokyo from the inside perspective.

We will end our day in a hip neighborhood with a farm-to-table lunch.

We'll provide you with a day pass for all public transportation, and you can join us as we go back to our hotel or you can explore Tokyo on your own. We are happy to suggest neighborhoods or restaurants.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY TEN - TOKYO

It's off to the famous Outer Tsukiji Fish Market for a tasty food tour through the market and getting to know the vendors. We'll pick up provisions in the market before heading to our sushi cooking class for lunch.

Gather with your fellow travelers to drive about 30 minutes to a Tokyo restaurant surrounded by gardens, which feels like a sanctuary within the city. Enjoy our farewell dinner together in a private room with a choice of tasting menus.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY ELEVEN - TOKYO

On our day of departure, we will have an optional group breakfast at the hotel. Given the distance of the airports in Tokyo, we have arranged for travelers to take the LimoBus shuttle departing from our hotel to either Narita (NRT - approximately 1.5 hours) or Haneda (HND - approximately 1 hour) airport for departures. We will arrange which LimoBus you will depart on given your flight time, and we will escort you to the shuttle.

Included Meals: Breakfast

just a few highlights of

TRIP EXPERIENCES

- Progressive dinner tour in Osaka
- Osaka tour with Yoko
- Cooking Class
- Tea farm + tea tasting
- Tour of Kyoto's geisha district
- Private tea ceremony
- Private Maiko performance
- Sake tastings
- Hot spring baths at a ryokan
- Traditional woodworking class
- Traditional Japanese course meal
- Market & neighborhood tours

IMAGINE...

Experiencing the real Japan that you can't find on Google - like meeting a master craftsman and sharing a meal in his traditional Japanese-style home. No tourist versions here - you get insider access to the real local lifestyle.



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO TRAVEL WITH TTLT?

You become a friend, part of our community, and we welcome you into the homes of our friends around the world. We encourage deeper connections by exploring through our shared love of flavor, cuisine, and interactions with real people.

- **Explore Beyond Tourism** - Don't just travel - belong. You'll be introduced to our friends and you'll see the world up close and personal through the eyes of locals that reveal the hidden gems of Japan.
- **One-of-a-kind Experiences** - Appreciate the culture on a deeper level. We partner with chefs, families, artisans, and small business owners to craft trips that are anything but ordinary. Get insider access you won't find in a guide book.
- **All inclusive...yes, really!** - From the moment you land, we've got everything planned. From transit to tips - it's on us. Free yourself up for awe, wonder, excitement, and joy.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TRIP?

Leave your wallet behind and let us take care of it all. The Inside Japan trip includes all your travel expenses except one dinner on your own. When you arrive you can live in the moment without any worry.

"At the beginning of the trip we thought the price was on the higher end. At the end... we thought the value was excellent. I believe we got more than our money's worth. At no time did I think I was being short changed or nickel-dimed to death. That's a good feeling." Traveler on Heart of Italy Small Group Trip 2022



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THE TOUR?

Our tours have just 6 - 12 travelers. This micro-group size lends itself to intimate experiences, personalized attention, and access to places that wouldn't be possible with larger groups. You'll share experiences and create memories with new friends you'll talk about for a lifetime.

WHO WILL I MEET ON THE TRIP?

Enjoy stories and history straight from the artisans, farmers, and families that call Japan home. We visit our friends - artisans, farmers, shopkeepers, chefs, and more. What makes us unique is our relationships that extend beyond tourism. With our local friends we host a handful of trips each year that give a peek into real life in Japan.



what to do now?

HOW TO BOOK

Ready to book?

Visit [our website](#) to secure your seat at the table with a deposit and select which dates you would like to travel with us.

Have more questions?

Schedule a no-obligation [phone call](#) with a tour host to ask questions about the trip or check out our [frequently asked questions](#).

How does the 24- hour refund policy work?

We know plans change. Travelers have a 24-hour period upon paying their deposit to request a refund with full reimbursement to the original payment method.

Do I need travel protection?

YES! [Travel protection](#) is extremely important and we recommend that all travelers procure what is suitable for the risk they are willing to assume. Our preferred provider is [Travel Insured](#) which has over 25 years in the travel protection industry.

