

YOUR FIRST GAY TRIP TO JAPAN?

# ESSENTIAL JAPAN

 12 DAYS





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目次

# TABLE OF CONTENTS




**DAY 1 ..... 02**  
**WELCOME TO JAPAN!**

- Airport pick up and transfer to Kyoto.
- Check-in at hotel.
- Spare time to explore the surroundings.




**DAY 7 ..... 10**  
**TOP TOKYO DISTRICTS**

- Harajuku and Takeshita Street.
- Meiji Jingu shrine.
- Shibuya.
- Shinjuku, panoramic view.
- Shinjuku & Gay town.




**DAY 2 ..... 03**  
**TREASURES OF KYOTO**

- Kinkakuji temple.
- Nijo Castle.
- Shorenin temple.
- Chionin temple.
- ... and many more treasures!



**DAY 8 ..... 12**  
**SPECIAL EDO PERIOD**

- Option 1: Kawagoe.
- Option 2: Nikko.
- Option 3: Warp Station Edo.




**DAY 3 ..... 05**  
**FUSHIMI INARY AND NARA**

- Fushimi Inari shrine.
- Todaiji, the world's largest wooden construction.
- Binzuru statue.



**DAY 9 ..... 14**  
**TAKARAGAWA ONSEN**

Magnificent hot spring with overnight at a Japanese-style room with tatami and futons.



**DAY 4 ..... 07**  
**MT. KOYA**

- Okunoin temple.
- Kongobuji.
- Fukuchi-in temple, where you will spend one night.




**DAY 10 ..... 15**  
**ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE**

- Museum of Emerging Science.
- Tokyo Skytree.
- Imperial Palace and Gardens.
- ... and many more activities!



**DAY 5 ..... 08**  
**FREE DAY IN KYOTO**

- Spare time.
- Our recommendation: A dinner served by a real geishas.



**DAY 11 ..... 16**  
**DAY TRIP OF YOUR CHOICE**

- 1 - Ushiku Buddha and Kamakura.
- 2 - Day trip to Hakone shrine.
- 3 - Day trip to Mt. Fuji.

+ Helicopter night cruise.



**DAY 6 ..... 08**  
**HIMEJI CASTLE AND MT. SHOSHA**

- Himeji Castle.
- Kokoan gardens.
- Maniden temple.
- Mitsu no do (Engyoji temple).



**DAY 12 ..... 18**  
**SUMO TRAINING**

- Watch sumo wrestlers training at their stables.
- Spare time.
- Flight back home.





Kamakura Daibutsu (pag. 16)



Kinkakuji

## DAY 1: WELCOME TO JAPAN!



All travellers are picked up at **Osaka International Airport**. If you do not bring Japanese yen with you, the tour guide will assist you to **exchange your currency at the airport**. He will also give you the password of the portable router he'll bring during the whole itinerary to provide **free internet connection** to you and your fellow travellers as long as you remain close by.


You will be **transported to Kyoto** by a Haruka Express rapid service train. The hotel can be reached within a minute's walk from Kyoto station. Alternatively a taxi service will take the entire group from Osaka International Airport to the hotel in Kyoto if all members' arrival time at the airport coincides.

After checking in at the hotel, you will enjoy **free time** to take a first glimpse of Kyoto and explore the surroundings.

You may also dive into the swimming pool, exercise at the gym or rest for the next day. It is also possible to exchange foreign currency at this hotel.



Travellers are free to choose their dinner on Day 1. The hotel offers interesting dining options, and alternative choices are available in the food court in front of Kyoto station.

 **Hotel Granvia Kyoto** ★★★★★. Featuring 30sqm soundproof rooms within Kyoto station's main structure.



## DAY 2: TREASURES OF KYOTO

This day will be spent exploring the treasures of Kyoto. We will meet at the lobby of the hotel at 9:00am, following breakfast.



The day starts in a big way: The **Kinkakuji** or "Temple of the Golden Pavilion". You will be astonished by the view of its golden walls reflected in a gorgeous lake peppered with beautiful tiny islands. No wonder why it became a National Special Historic Site and a National Special Landscape.

After visiting the Kinkaku-ji you will be taken to the impressive **Nijo Castle**, one of the seventeen Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto which have been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Completed in 1626, it was built as the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shoguns. The castle is an excellent example of social control manifested in architectural space. The construction lent itself to expressing intimidation and power to Edo-period visitors.

Our next visit will be the **Ginkakuji** or "Temple of the Silver Pavilion". This Zen temple was meant to be covered by silver foil emulating somehow the appearance of the Kinkakuji. However, this work was delayed for so long that the plans were never realized, leaving the main building with its wooden structure intact. In addition to the temple's famous building, the property features wooded grounds covered with a variety of mosses.

The traditional street leading to the Silver Pavilion is an ideal spot to improvise a **lunch as we walk**. Since most choices are light meals, you have the chance to try not only one, but multiple Japanese dishes. Do not be afraid to taste new flavours!



**Autumn extra:** If your Essential Japan tour takes place in mid-November (momiji season), we will make a brief stop at Eikando temple to enjoy its outstanding autumn red leaves.



**Sakura extra:** If your Essential Japan tour takes place the first two weeks of April, we will add a walk on foot along the famous Philosopher's Path to enjoy an unforgettable view of the cherry blossom.



Distances between temples and shrines can be lengthy. A **private taxi** will take the group to the main areas of interest during the day to maximize your comfort and to optimize your time spent at each location.

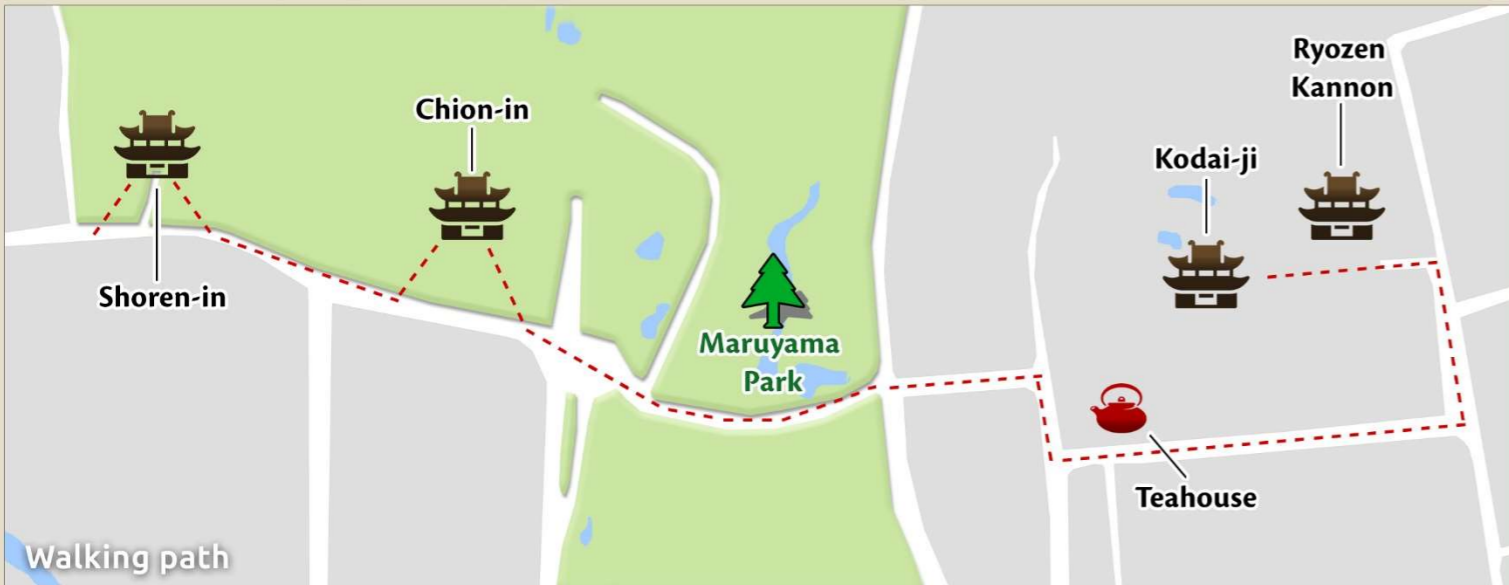






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The taxi driver will take the group to the **Shoren-in** temple, in front of which you will find an over-800-year-old tree waiting for your visit. This temple, luckily not so well known by tourists, will give us a little privacy to enjoy its corridors, pavilions, beautiful garden and altars. Take your time to sit and breathe where once a Japanese prince lived!



Just a few moments further on we will find the **Chion-in** temple, where a scene from Tom Cruise's *The Last Samurai* was filmed. This temple has the largest wooden gate in Japan. Its massive bell was the largest in the world from the 17th to the 19th century. It weighs 74 tons and require 17 to 25 men to strike it.



After crossing the Maruyama Park, beautifully covered by sakura flowers in April, we will find the traditional streets of the city. Very close by we will visit the **Kodai-ji** and **Ryozen Kannon** temples. The gardens of the Kodai-ji temple will help you to calm down after the 24m (80 ft) high statue of Kannon and its 500-ton weight takes your breath away.



Ryozen Kannon temple



Let's have some **spare time** to walk around and do some shopping. Your tour guide will provide you with a special card with a map to move around for the next **60 minutes**. The card also states the meeting point. If you can't find your way back, you can always show this card to any Japanese passer-by and they will be happy to give you directions.

The meeting point is a **traditional teahouse** where you may find lots of colourful carps in its amazing garden. The matcha and sweets at this place are insanely delicious! Your tour guide will be waiting for you here the whole time.



The **Heian Jingu** is a shrine built to commemorate the 1100 anniversary of Kyoto's foundation (originally named Heian-kyō), the capital of Japan for centuries. Kyoto was shocked and depressed after the capital was moved to Tokyo. The citizens came together to build a new city after World War II. The reconstruction of the Heian Shrine was a symbol of revival for the city.



Back to Kyoto station your tour guide will take you to a food court where you will be free to choose among dozens of restaurants. The hotel will be just two minute' walk away.



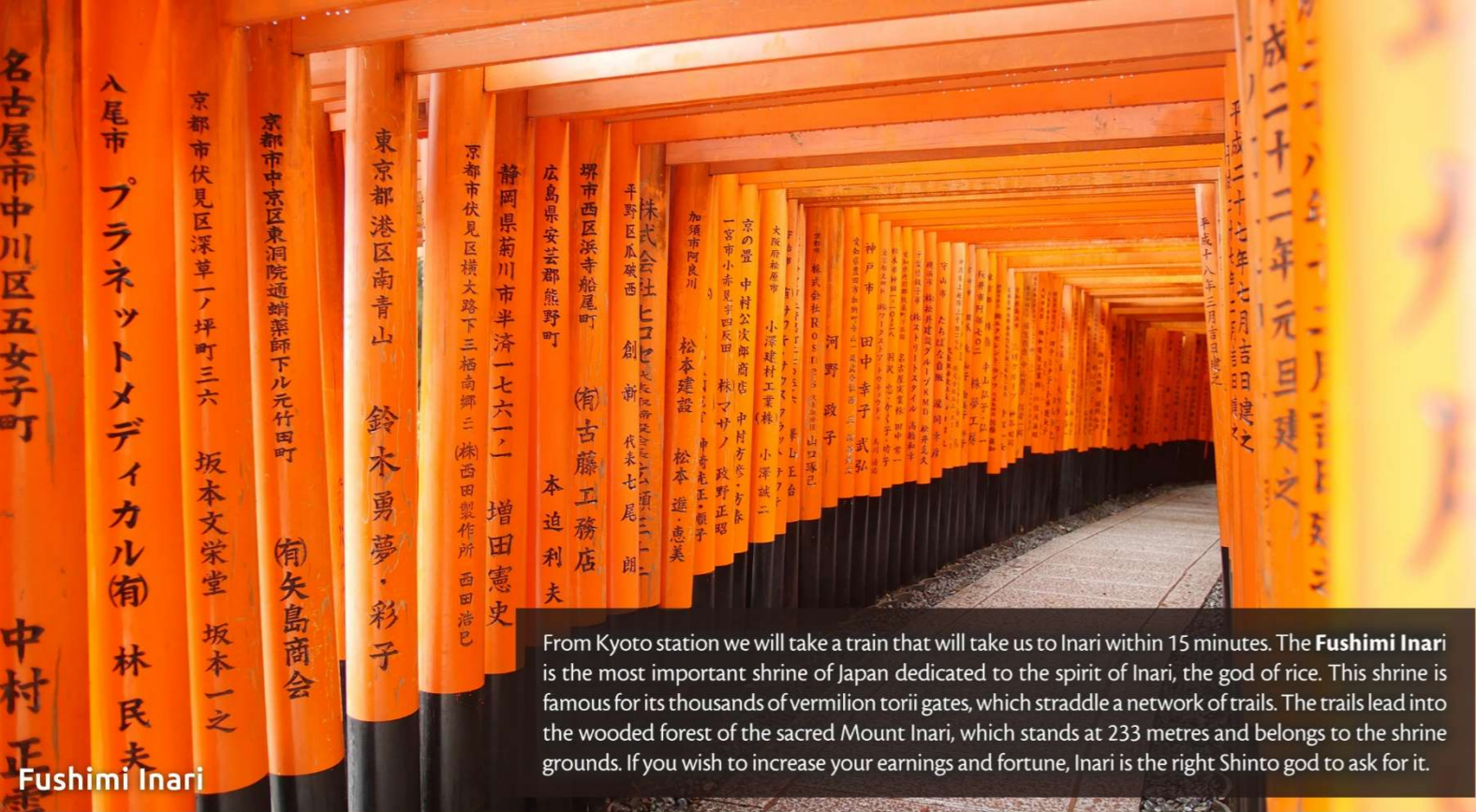
Just a minute's walk on from the Heian Jingu we can witness how **Kendo** practitioners train at a traditional budokan. Be ready for angry shouts, wooden sword strikes and vibration under your feet as they perform every attack. Right in front of the Kendo pavilion, Japanese archers test their aim at a **Kyudo** school.



This day will be spent exploring **Fushimi Inari shrine and Nara**. We will meet up at the lobby of the hotel at 9:00am, right after breakfast.

## DAY 3: FUSHIMI INARI AND NARA





From Kyoto station we will take a train that will take us to Inari within 15 minutes. The **Fushimi Inari** is the most important shrine of Japan dedicated to the spirit of Inari, the god of rice. This shrine is famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates, which straddle a network of trails. The trails lead into the wooded forest of the sacred Mount Inari, which stands at 233 metres and belongs to the shrine grounds. If you wish to increase your earnings and fortune, Inari is the right Shinto god to ask for it.

Fushimi Inari



Okunoin

## DAY 4: KOYASAN

Day 4 will be spent exploring the ancient Mount Koya with an unforgettable overnight stay at a Buddhist temple.

The check-out procedure at the hotel in Kyoto must be done before 9:00am. It is possible - and advisable - to leave most of the luggage at the reception as you will check in again the next day.

A taxi will pick up the group at 9:00am and will head to Mount Koya.



**Okunoin** is the site of the mausoleum of Kobo Daishi (also known as Kukai), the founder of Shingon Buddhism and one of the most revered persons in the religious history of Japan. Instead of having died, **Kobo Daishi** is believed to rest in eternal meditation as he awaits Miroku Nyorai (the Buddha of the Future) and provides relief to those who ask for salvation in the meantime. Okunoin is one of the most sacred places in Japan and a popular pilgrimage spot.



**Kongobuji temple.** Visitors will first come across the Ohiroma Room which was used for important rituals and religious ceremonies. Next to the Ohiroma Room are the Plum and Willow Rooms where a historic ritual suicide took place.

A long corridor then leads to a wing where visitors are invited to enjoy some tea and a cookie in a large tatami hall. An adjacent building features rooms whose sliding doors are decorated by 20th century paintings of seasonal flowers and the story of **Kobo Daishi**, his journey to China and his founding of Koyasan. Behind the building is the **Banryutei Rock Garden**, the largest rock garden in Japan.

There are even more historical and beautiful spots to be visited after lunch and before having a delicious vegetarian dinner at the temple (**included**).



**Fukuchi-in Temple.** You will not believe how it feels to get immersed into the hot spring of the temple at night. The temple's garden, the fog, the sounds of the forest, the healing properties of the volcanic water caressing your naked body and the smell of history all around. Because yes, this temple has a 24h open hot spring inside.



1 hour journey away from Inari we will arrive in **Nara**. It is possible to have an early lunch upon arrival, in the main street, or on the way back to the station after visiting the surroundings. We will visit a local family restaurant which caters for all tastes and has an array of Japanese dishes and international cuisine.

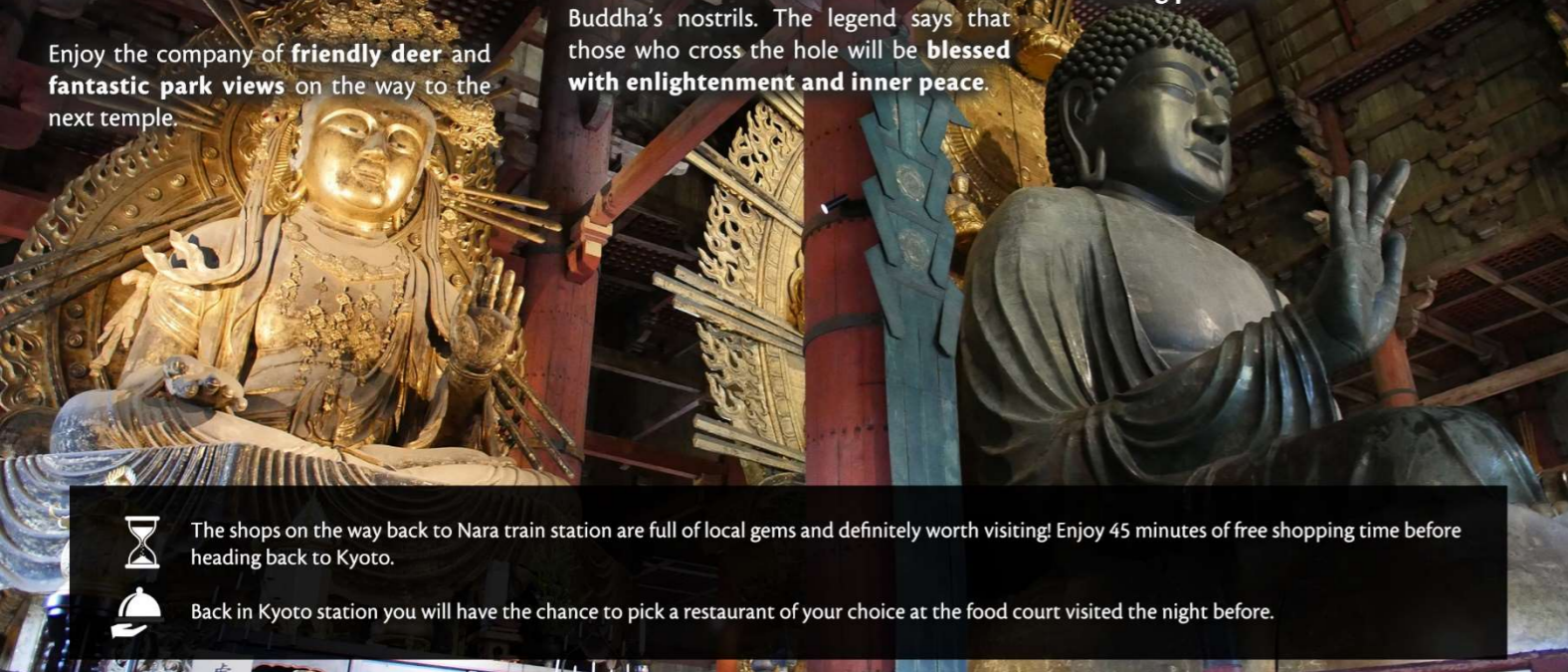


The **Kofukuji** was previously the family temple of the Fujiwara, the most powerful family clan during much of the Nara and Heian periods. The temple was established in Nara at the same time as the capital in 710.

Enjoy the company of **friendly deer** and **fantastic park views** on the way to the next temple.

This is the magnificent **Todaiji**, the **world's largest wooden construction**. Inside sits an overwhelming 15 meters (49 ft) tall Buddha weighing over 550 tons. One of the wooden pillars of the pavilion has a hole in it, the same size as one of the Buddha's nostrils. The legend says that those who cross the hole will be **blessed with enlightenment and inner peace**.

Todaiji temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Outside the main hall you will find a wooden statue of a disciple of Buddha that is said to cure illness. Ask your tour guide how to use the **Binzuru's healing powers!**



The shops on the way back to Nara train station are full of local gems and definitely worth visiting! Enjoy 45 minutes of free shopping time before heading back to Kyoto.

Back in Kyoto station you will have the chance to pick a restaurant of your choice at the food court visited the night before.



# DAY 5: FREE DAY

After checking back in at the Kyoto hotel you will be given a **free day** to roam, explore, shop and visit any sites you wish to see. The old capital of Japan is rich in ancient sites so take in all the sights, smells and sounds and rejoice getting lost wandering the historic streets.

You may also want to experience a **dinner served by real geishas** (maiko or geiko are their actual names according to their level of expertise).

It is possible to **hire your tour guide** on your free day. Please ask him for a personal quotation. Otherwise you will meet your tour travel mates and tour guide the next day at 9:00am.



# DAY 6: HIMEJI CASTLE AND MOUNT SHOSHA

The group will be picked up at 9:00am after breakfast and taken to **Himeji** by a Shinkansen (bullet train) that will take less than 1 hour.

Meet the largest and best preserved castle of Japan: **The Himeji Castle**. It is the only one of its kind that has never been destroyed by wars, never been severely damaged by natural disasters and never been burnt to ashes. Himeji's magnificent Castle has stood perfectly intact for over 400 years and has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Special Historic Site and a National Treasure by the Japanese Government.

Your trip would not be complete without a visit to the **Kokoan gardens**. The gardens consist of nine separate, walled gardens designed in various styles of the Edo period. Among the gardens are the garden of the lord's residence which features a waterfall pond, pine tree garden, bamboo garden, flower garden and a tea garden for guests to relax in a traditional tea ceremony house.



Himeji Castle



Close by the gardens there is the bus stop that will take you to the ropeway that leads to the **Mount Shosha**, a natural site whose temple complex has a history of over 1000 years.

The Mount Shosha will welcome you with a **Bonsho** (Buddhist bell). If your tour guide gets permission you will be able to send your requests to Buddha by striking the bell with a suspended beam. Then your way into the mount will begin.

Thanks to the beautiful scenery and absence of modern infrastructure on its temple grounds, Mount Shosha is frequently used as a film location for historical movies and TV dramas. Besides mostly domestic productions, the Hollywood movie **"The Last Samurai"** was partially shot on the mount.

Following the path, all the way flanked by Buddhist statues rich in detail, you will find the charming **Maniden temple**. In our opinion, this temple goes beyond what the Kyojumi Dera in Kyoto has to offer: it is located in a mount surrounded by nature instead of a city, you will find a fraction of the tourists that overcrowd Kyojumi, the atmosphere is quiet inviting meditation, and finally both temples flaunt the same beauty.

Due to the lack of restaurants in the area, lunch will take place in the forest in form of **picnic** with food bought at a supermarket before heading to the Mount Shosha.

**Mitsu No Do** consists of three different pavilions laid out in a U-shaped arrangement. Emperor Kazan, who himself entered the Buddhist priesthood, requested the construction of the great hall in 986 and bestowed the name **Engyoji**. This site was chosen for a scene in the film *The Last Samurai*.

Upon completion of the trail of Mount Shosha, the group will go back to Kyoto and **enjoy a dinner** at the food court close to the hotel.



Mount Shosha





Tokyo

# DAY 7: TOP TOKYO DISTRICTS

After checkout and breakfast the group will be picked up at 10:00am. You will be heading to Tokyo in a Shinkansen bullet train that will take about 2 hours to reach Shinagawa station. We will then check in at our hotel (Keikyu Exx In) which is located right in front of this station.



Our next stop will take you to **Harajuku** and its famous **Takeshita Street**. Here you will enjoy 45-60 minutes to wander, shop or just chill out with a coffee at the popular owl/cat cafés in the area. If you wish to buy second-hand quality Japanese clothing, your tour guide will take to a fabulous shop nearby.

On the way to the next point of interest, your tour guide will offer you a **choice of restaurants**: Japanese or Italian. The group may split at this time and your guide will be on hand to place your food orders.

After your meal you will be taken to the **Meiji Jingu** shrine, one of the most important shrines of the capital.

Meiji Jingu is the Shinto shrine that is dedicated to the deified spirits of **Emperor Meiji** and his wife, **Empress Shoken**. The original building was destroyed during the Tokyo air raids of World War II. The present iteration of the shrine was funded through a public fund-raising effort and completed in October 1958.



After this shrine, we will continue our walk down to **Shibuya district**. This area is well known for its countless shopping malls, variety of shops, urban tribes, karaokes, etc.

We will complete the tour to this district after crossing the world's most popular and busiest street intersection, surrounded by giant LED screens and music. As soon as we cross this street we will find the **statue of Hachiko**, the loyal dog who died after waiting nine years for his owner in the same place.

**Shinjuku** will follow Shibuya as we make our way around Tokyo's top districts. It is a major commercial and administrative center, housing the **busiest railway station in the world (Shinjuku Station)** and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, the administration centre for the **government of Tokyo**.

You will enjoy **spectacular panoramic views** of the city from the top of this government building, where you can also grab a cup of coffee.



After this visit the route will continue to other sides of Shinjuku station. We will pass by the famous **Kabukicho** or **red light district**. If anything around catches your attention, let's explore it together!

Dinner will take place at an international food restaurant with a Japanese touch.

Finally we are approaching the **Gay town!** The first stop will be the 5-storey 24 hour open **gay sauna**. Here you may lay and watch TV fully naked, get tanned at a UV rays station, bathe in three different pools, heat up in three types of sauna, explore the gloryholes, slings, etc, or vanish into the massive dark rooms.

As time goes on, the **gay pubs and discos** nearby will open and receive the first crowds. Feel free to leave the sauna at any time to visit them.



Your tour guide will give you an orientation card to help you go back to the hotel anytime you wish, so you have total freedom to enjoy the Gay town as you like and to play around with local and foreign guys in the area.

**Keikyu Exx In Hotel** ★★. Featuring the Best location in Tokyo to connect with main cities by shinkansen. Best location to connect with international airports. Best location to connect with main train and subway lines within Tokyo Metropolitan Area.







Kawagoe

Nikko

Warp Station Edo

## DAY 8: SPECIAL EDO PERIOD

The theme of this day is the **Edo period**, in which the government power was transferred **from Kyoto to Edo** (actually Tokyo). It is the period between 1603 and 1868 characterized by economic growth, strict social order, isolationist foreign policies, a stable population, peace, and popular enjoyment of arts and culture.

Even though Edo itself was half destroyed by incendiary bombs dropped by US aviators during the World War II, **many architectural vestiges of this period remain intact**, such as Kawagoe and Nikko. Your tour guide will suggest you one of the three destinations according to factors such as: distance from Shinagawa, ongoing renovation works, timeframe, closing days, season, scheduled festivals, etc.

You will be picked up at the hotel lobby after the breakfast, at 9:00am.

### Option 1 KAWAGOE

Approximately one hour away from Shinagawa station, the city is known locally as "Little Edo" after the old name for Tokyo, due to its many historic buildings.

The highlight of this visit is the Kurazukuri no Machinami (Warehouse District), which provides a nostalgic scene from the Edo period as it keeps the architectural characteristics of that time.

**Kawagoe** was then an important commercial town supplying resources to Edo, and some of the commercial buildings managed to survive to this day.

Just a short distance from the main street stands the **Toki no Kane** (Bell Tower), a landmark and symbol of Kawagoe. It chimes four times a day (6:00, 12:00, 15:00 and 18:00). The tower was rebuilt in 1894,

after the Great Kawagoe Fire of 1893 had destroyed the previous structure.

We will visit the rest of the town without any stress, taking a look at its quiet temples and shrines, its little castle, delightful restaurants, and curious spots.

### Option 2 NIKKO

**Nikko** is located about 2 hours away from Shinagawa station. There are two main highlights in this trip:

**Nikko Edomura (Edo Wonderland)**, a little town built in Edo architectural style. Populated by natives who wear Edo traditional costume, the site is often **filmed in Japanese productions**.

Visitors are invited to wear Japanese clothing as well to help with this unique immersion in history.

**Edomura** has lots of traditional shops, museums and entertainment spots such as **live shows or theatre performances**. You will also learn how ancient craftsmen used to work **creating traditional objects and repair armoury**. The dark side of Edomura can be found in the jail of the town, where you will find scenes of **torture, battle and imprisonment**.

But this town features other experiences unlikely to be found anywhere else in Japan. Take the risk to enter the **human-sized labyrinth** of the village and accept the challenge to escape alive. If you make it, try the **house of illusions**, keeping in mind that you cannot trust anything you will see inside.

**Lunch** will take place in one of the restaurants of the town.

The **Tosho-gu** shrine is a magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site. Five structures at Tosho-gu are categorized as National Treasures of Japan. The shrine is dedicated to **Tokugawa Ieyasu**, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate and therefore built during the Edo period.

Depending on the time left after visiting both places, we will visit additional points of interest, such as the **Taiyuinbyo mausoleum**, the beautiful **Tamozawa Imperial Villa**, the **Nikko Botanical Garden**, the **Senjogahara Marshland**, the **Lake Chuzenji**...

All travellers will have the chance to explore and choose their own restaurant for dining at night upon arrival to Shinagawa. Your tour guide will have plenty of recommendations.

### Option 3 WARP STATION EDO

It is located about 1 hour by train from Shinagawa station and additional 10 minutes by taxi.

The **Warp Station Edo** is a detailed replica of a traditional Edo-period town. Run by the state broadcaster NHK, Warp Station Edo is actually **used for filming 17th century period dramas and films** but is also open to the public. Despite its remote location, it makes a great trip for visitors looking to explore this part of Ibaraki, not to mention take a step back in time.

You will never find Warp Station Edo too busy or crowded, given its location, even with glorious weather or visiting during peak times. This makes it a great location to **soak up the atmosphere of the Edo-period** environments.

You'll find many quiet, tranquil spots to relax and it makes a **great location for photography**.

Open every day between 9am and 4pm (last entry 3:30pm), Warp Station Edo makes for a good excursion outside Tokyo. Access to certain areas can be restricted depending on what filming or set work is going on at the time, but usually you will have a good chance to see everything and seeing something being filmed is probably a bonus.

Back to Tokyo, we will visit the **Tokyo-Edo Museum**. Its permanent exhibition, showcasing original objects and replicas, offers visitors a journey through the 400-year history of Edo-Tokyo since Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo. In addition to the permanent exhibition, the museum holds special exhibitions at the first floor gallery five to six times a year and carries out various other events, including lectures and workshops on the history and culture of Edo-Tokyo. *Notice: The museum will be closed for renovation from October 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.*



Warp Station Edo





## DAY 9: TAKARAGAWA ONSEN



**Takaragawa Onsen** is the second Japanese hot spring that you will enjoy in Japan. Surrounded by mountains and nature, this is one of the best hot springs in the country.


After breakfast and checkout, you will be picked up at 10:00am at the lobby of the hotel. Please leave any excess luggage in the lobby.

We will arrive at Takaragawa Onsen past noon and will devote the day to absolute relaxation. You will enjoy an overnight at a **Japanese-style room** with tatami and futons. Inside the lodge building you may enjoy a male-only hot bath with views of the river while outside the building you will find **three open-air rotenburo** pools at different temperatures and guarded by statues of impressive Buddhist deities.

It does not matter if you come to Takaragawa Onsen in a shiny summer, in autumn when the tree leaves are red, in winter when the snow covers the surroundings or in spring when the forest colors bloom: visiting this onsen is always an unforgettable experience.

Enjoy your meals from the restaurant at any time to suit your individual plans. **Dinner and breakfast are included.**

Your room is a tranquil haven, perfect to unwind in a kimono, make love with your man, catch up with errands, write your travel journal and organize the photos of your trip. Let your worries melt away, de-stress and let the calming environment absorb you. Don't forget to have a walk around at sunset, nighttime or sunrise. The views of the hot spring are spectacular.

 **Takaragawa Onsen** ★★★★★ . Featuring fantastic Japanese-style rooms with hot springs.  Dinner and breakfast included!

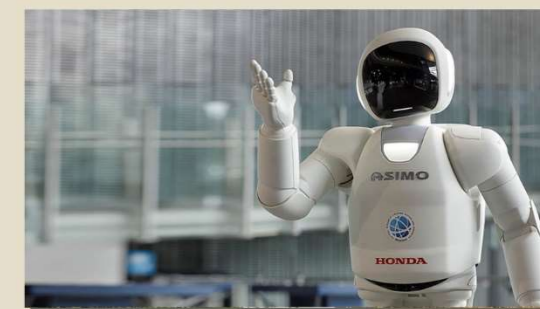


## DAY 10: ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

This is a free day to carry out activities of your own choosing upon check-in back at Shinagawa's hotel.

Your tour guide will provide directions and relevant information on the activities you have chosen. Here are some recommendations:

- **Tokyo Flea Market**, the largest in Japan (only 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month), where you can find countless items and antiques related to Japanese culture at a very reasonable price.
- **Miraikan, the Museum of Emerging Science**, featuring the most advanced humanoids such as Asimo.
- **Fuji TV headquarters**, where you may find human-sized figures of the productions made by this broadcasting company, such as Dragon Ball or One Piece. You may enjoy outstanding views of Tokyo Bay from the top of this building.
- **Tokyo Skytree**. With a height of 624m (2,080 ft) it's the world's second tallest construction, only surpassed by the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. You will find restaurants, coffee shops and stores inside the tower.
- **Kabuki or Noh theatre** performance. It is possible to take part in a performance or to participate in a lesson of four hours carried by an expert where you will wear the real costume and mask, and will perform on a Noh stage.
- **Senso-ji temple**, the oldest in Tokyo and one of the most important.
- **Imperial Palace and Gardens**. Even though it's not possible to visit the palace itself, you may see it partially from outside.
- **Yasukuni Jinja** and its adjacent museum of World War II.
- **Special events or festivals** taking place on the day.
- **Tokyo National Museum**. The oldest in Japan. It collects, houses, and displays a comprehensive collection of art works and antiquities from Japan. The museum also conducts research and investigations concerning its collection of books, rubbings, and photographs related to fine art.
- **Edo-Tokyo Museum**. Its permanent exhibition, showcasing original objects and replicas, offers visitors a journey through the 400-year history of Edo-Tokyo since Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo. *Notice: The museum will be closed for renovation from October 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.*







Ushiku Buddha



Oshino Hakkai and Mount Fuji



Hakone Shrine

## DAY 11: DAY TRIP OF YOUR CHOICE

This is the last full day you will be in Japan, so let's make it unforgettable!

You will be picked up at the hotel lobby after the breakfast, at 9:00am. According to the option chosen by you and your travel mates, **one of these trips** will follow to crown your Gay trip to the Land of the Rising Sun:



### USHIKU BUDDHA AND KAMAKURA

Nowadays, Kamakura is the site of wonderful Buddhist temples, shrines and beaches.

Our picks are: the **Kamakura Daibutsu** (Great Buddha), the **Zeniarai Benten** shrine, the **Jufukuji** temple, the **Hokokuji** temple, and the **Jomyoji** temple.

Kamakura features several **hiking trails** that may be skipped as the main spots of the area can easily be reached on foot on paved streets. Your tour guide will select the best way according to the walking pace of the group and the timing of the day.



Just 1 hour away from Shinagawa station we will reach the overwhelming **Ushiku Daibutsu** (Ushiku Buddha), a statue that stands a total of 120 metres (390 feet) tall, including the 10-metre (33 feet) base and 10-metre lotus platform. As of 2017, it is one of the top three tallest statues in the world.

An elevator takes visitors up 85-metres (279 feet) to an **observation floor**. The statue depicts Amitabha Buddha and is made of bronze.

A 2-hour journey away from this amazing Buddha we will reach **Kamakura** by train. This city was the political centre of the country for about a century when the shogun Minamoto Yoritomo set it as headquarters of his government in 1192.



### HAKONE SHRINE

Immersed in the forest and facing a beautiful lake from which you can still see Mount Fuji, this is **one of the most alluring shrines of Japan**. The location is perfect for a postcard lookalike picture with your boyfriend or husband.

We will visit two shrines in the area: the **Hakone Jinja** and the **Hakone Mototsumiya**.

It takes 30 minutes by Shinkansen bullet train to reach Odawara station and then an additional 40 minutes by bus to Hakone shrine. A walk around the lakeside will lead to the ropeway that will take us to the **Hakone Mototsumiya** shrine. The best thing to do on top of the mount is to enjoy an **open-air picnic** and unwind in the natural beauty of the tranquil surroundings.



### MOUNT FUJI

Our morning bus will take us to **Kawaguchiko Lake**, from where you will enjoy an awesome view of the majestic Mount Fuji reflected on the surface of the lake.

The next stop will take you to **Oshino Hakkai** (Eight Ponds of Oshino). You will have the chance to taste fresh fruit and local food at a medieval rural village.

After that we will arrive at **Oshino Shinobi no Sato**, well known for hosting old generations of real ninjas and its descendants. From its Japanese gardens you will keep a direct view of **Mount Fuji**.



This village is ideal for a **relaxed lunch**.

Following this we will finally reach Japan's iconic national symbol and most sacred landmark: the tallest mountain in the country, **Mount Fuji**.



Regardless your day trip option for this day, a **helicopter night cruise over Tokyo** is scheduled at 20:00 (8pm). We promised you at the beginning of today's description: your last day in Japan will be unforgettable!

Please keep in mind that the helicopter flight will be subject to possible delays during the day trip and weather conditions. The helicopter cruise is closed on Tuesdays.







## DAY 12: SUMO WRESTLERS

Travellers may leave their luggage at the hotel's counter during the day until it's time to depart for the airport.

Before you leave this wonderful country we have prepared a last experience to take home with you. Since this event takes place between 6 and 7am, we have set it as an **optional activity**.

**Sumo wrestlers** train every morning at their respective stables and we know how to find them. Get ready to witness how these Japanese titans collide with each other and shake the floor you stand on. This is not open to the public, so it's very unlikely to see anyone else around us, making this a **very special event**.

If you attend this event we suggest you to **bring a small gift from your country** to give away to the sumo fighters as an act of courtesy to let us in. Your tour guide will let you know if it is okay to take pictures inside the stable.



Gay travelers joining this amazing adventure come from different countries and cities around the world, so every traveller's departure time from the airport will differ. That makes it impossible for us to program other activities during this day, but you will have the option to spend the rest of your time in Japan as you wish, perhaps picking one of the options listed for Day 10.

Go! **Gay** JAPAN

