

Abercrombie & Kent



CLASSIC JAPAN - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2021)

Discover the incredible breadth of Japan's culture and history, from the contemporary flair of Tokyo to the charms of traditional Kyoto, visiting historic temples, overnighting at a sought-after ryokan and sampling its culinary treasures.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Japan, The Orient



9 days, from AU\$17,200



18 Guests

Journey Overview

A country of astonishing contrasts, Japan is a wonderful and varied destination. On this journey, marvel at some of the country's most impressive gardens and glimpse magnificent mountain landscapes as you travel by bullet train. Be introduced to ancient Samurai traditions and visit sacred Shinto shrines. Take the opportunity to appreciate Japan's myriad arts and crafts, and meet a local artist and collector, and savour its extraordinary cuisine in local eateries, fine restaurants and street food stalls. Be amazed at a sumo wrestling bout, find respite in a classic onsen and rest up in a traditional ryokan – just a handful of Japan's cultural highlights.

Journey Highlights

Behold the exalted spring-flowering cherry trees, known locally as sakura; or view the vivid red foliage of autumn

Experience neon-lit Tokyo, learning its humble origins at the Edo-Tokyo Museum, and feel the vitality of this buzzy world capital, playing taiko drums and visiting a seafood market

Stay at Gora Kadan, one of the country's most exclusive ryokans (traditional inns), thanks to A&K's small group size

Zip by bullet train along the classic stretch past majestic Mount Fuji to Osaka, where you savour a foodie experience in the renowned Dotonbori district

Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Kyoto as you discover the art of the tea ceremony, witness sumo wrestling and take part in a special geisha dinner



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo, Japan

Arrive in Tokyo, Japan's exciting and modern capital. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy the expansive views over Tokyo's Skyline.

Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi

Day 2: Tokyo | Spirits of Edo

Today, explore the Edo-Tokyo Museum, which was established to preserve the historic heritage of the city of Tokyo, and its precursor Edo, over the past 400 years. Continue to a family-owned workshop that specialises in Japanese drum making, and try your hand at playing the taiko, on an A&K-exclusive experience. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then visit Asakusa Kannon Temple. This colourful pagoda-style temple was completed in 645 and is dedicated to Kannon, the goddess of mercy in several East Asian spiritual traditions. Continue to Meiji Shrine, a Shinto complex dedicated to an emperor, that was rebuilt after World War II. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner.

Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Tokyo | Design Your Day

Start your day at the Tsukiji Fish Market, a bustling hub of Japanese daily life, where a dizzying array of seafood can be found. Then, receive a lesson in sushi making followed by lunch, during a special culinary experience. This afternoon, enjoy one of these Design Your Day activities:

- Admire local contemporary art at the Mori Art Museum.
- Experience Tokyo's Samurai Museum, learning about the customs of this elite-warrior class and participating in a sword demonstration.
- Indulge in a sake tasting, sampling some of Japan's finest and learning about its cultural importance.

Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi | Meals: BL

Day 4: Hakone | Traditional Ryokan

Travel to Hakone, among Japan's most popular hot-spring destinations, and view the forested slopes of Hakone National Park, an area encompassing coastlines, mountains, lakes and more than 1,000 volcanic islands. Board an aerial tram rising above the wooded slopes for inspiring views of Mount Fuji. Savour a lunch of Japan's famed Kobe beef, before strolling the grassy hillsides of Hakone's Open Air Museum. Admire the impressive contemporary sculptures and artwork on display, including masterpieces by Henry Moore and Rodin. The museum also features one of the world's finest Picasso exhibits, presenting visitors with some 300 works by the cubist master. Tonight, experience unparalleled service and traditional Japanese cuisine at Gora Kadan, a top-rated *ryokan* (traditional inn), which is also your authentic accommodation for the night.

Gôra Kadan | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Osaka | Dotonbori District Delicacies

After breakfast at your ryokan, visit the Okada Museum of Art to view its stunning collection of paintings, ceramics, lacquerware and bronzes from Japan, Korea and China. Then, ride like a local by bullet train to Osaka. Historically known as a merchant city, it is today renowned as Japan's undisputed culinary capital, where diners indulge in everything from octopus dumplings to okonomi-yaki — a battered, grilled concoction of chopped cabbage, meat or seafood, and seaweed, topped with mayonnaise. This evening, take in city views, refreshing drink in hand, before setting out on a gourmet's tour in the popular Dotonbori district, sampling dishes from the beautifully lit-up and gastronomically creative eateries that line the streets.

The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: BL

Day 6: Nara | Insights into a Profoundly Spiritual Heritage

Travel to Nara, Japan's first capital, to visit Todai-ji, a temple complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains the largest bronze Buddha statue in Japan. Proceed to Nara Park, home to hundreds of deer, venerated here as divine spirits, which you have the opportunity to feed by hand. Complete your Nara excursion with a visit to celebrated Kasuga Taisha Shrine and experience a Shinto ceremony firsthand. Pause for lunch at a local restaurant before proceeding to the Kehaya-za Sumo Pavilion, where you observe a demonstration of this fabled Japanese sport by two sumo wrestlers. Return to your hotel, where dinner is arranged.

The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Kyoto | The Golden Pavilion & Bamboo Grove

Travel into Kyoto early this morning to contemplate the iconic Zen rock garden at Ryoan-ji, the perfect spot for a meditative moment, and discover the glittering Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion) — covered with gold leaf, surrounded by verdant gardens and casting its delicate reflection in the tranquil pond beside it. After lunch, explore the Arashiyama neighbourhood, including the garden of Tenryu-ji Temple. Later, bask in the magical atmosphere of Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, strolling along a winding path as sunlight filters down through towering bamboo shoots — considered by many a healing experience.

Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto | Meals: BL

Day 8: Kyoto | Hillside Views & Tea Traditions

Visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple for stunning views of Kyoto. Proceed to a local temple, where you experience the art of the tea ceremony, noting its refined sense of hospitality and etiquette, which date to the time of the samurai. Tonight, savour traditional Japanese cuisine, while an attending *geiko* (as a geisha is known in Kyoto) and maiko (apprentice geisha) dance, sing, pour sake and share stories about life in modern Kyoto.

Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto | Meals: BD

Day 9: Depart Kyoto

After breakfast, transfer to Kansai International Airport or Itami Airport, both located just outside of Osaka, for your flight home, or begin a post-tour extension to Hiroshima.

Meals: B

Journey Details

This journey includes long walks.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 8.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Extensions



Hiroshima Post Tour
Extension - A Luxury Small
Group Journey (2021)

Accommodation

Gôra Kadan, Hakone and Mount Fuji



The sublime Gora Kadan is situated in the striking Hakone National Park. The former retreat of the Kanin-no-miya imperial family, the Gora Kadan is elegantly designed with tatami-style rooms, sliding-doors and futons overlooking a green valley of pine trees and celebrated cherry trees.

A mesmerising mixture of traditional and modern, the Gora Kadan offers the very best of Japanese hospitality and an authentic experience. Slip into your kimono and explore the grounds, then feel the 21st century melt away as you relax in the tranquil Onsen amongst the trees and bamboo forests, or have all of your cares smoothed away with a traditional Shiatsu massage.

Why we like it

- Gora Kadan is the former retreat of the Kanin-no-miya, the youngest of the four branches of the Imperial Family of Japan
- Enjoy an authentic Japanese experience with views overlooking Hakone National Park
- The restaurant serves traditional Kaiseki cuisine meticulously prepared by the skilful chefs
- We love the Kadan Suites; choose one with a private open-air bath, Jacuzzi and steam sauna or panoramic wooden bath
- Facilities include a heated swimming pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, Kedan Spa and beauty salon

St. Regis Osaka



Located along the famed street of Midosuji, heralded as the Champs Elysées of Osaka, the St. Regis Osaka is an eloquent expression of comfort, tranquillity and refined Japanese aesthetics. Each of its 160 rooms and suites are elegantly furnished with all the amenities you would expect, with the highlights being opulent marble bathrooms with deep soaking tubs, exclusive Remède bath amenities, walk in closets and picturesque city views.

If you can bring yourself to leave your private sanctuary, bask in the tranquillity of the outdoor rooftop Zen garden or indulge in a rejuvenating treatment in the Iridium Spa, exclusive to the St Regis Hotel Group. Or head to the distinguished St Regis bar and sink into one of the plush velvet armchairs to indulge in afternoon tea, handcrafted speciality cocktails, or both. When hunger calls, you won't need to venture far – the hotel boasts two exclusive restaurants: Rue D'or is a classically inspired bistro serving authentic French cuisine matched with the freshest Japanese produce, and the hotel's signature Northern Italian grill restaurant, La Veduta, transports diners to Tuscany with its multi-course dining and lavish buffets.

Why we like it

- The 24-hour St Regis Butler Service has been the signature of the St Regis experience for over a century
- The exclusive Iridium Spa is an exquisite sanctuary for the body and soul.
- Two exclusive restaurants, composing menus of Japanese, French and Italian cuisine
- Find serenity in the outdoor rooftop zen garden and terrace bar

Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto



Just 15 minutes' drive from the famous Gion Geisha District, the Four Seasons is perfectly positioned for exploring the historical and culturally rich city of Kyoto. Set in the scenic district of temples, the hotel has been designed around a beautiful 800-year old ikeniwa, or pond garden.

The spacious guest rooms blend refined, modern aesthetics and the creations of Japanese artisans - including washi-paper lamps, fusuma screens and urushi lacquerware.

The hotel's eclectic mix of restaurants, lounges and bars will satisfy even the most discerning foodies, including their unique Tea House, set in a beautiful 800-year-old pond garden. A specialist sushi restaurant serves up fresh and elegant creations at the characterful, 10-seater Hinoki counter.

The peaceful Four Seasons' spa offers an extensive treatment list, including their authentic and energising Sake Bath. Two saunas, steam rooms, whirlpools and a contemporary swimming pool are also at guests' disposal. At the end of a busy day exploring Kyoto, sink into a customised Four Seasons bed in your spacious suite for a good night's sleep.

Why we like it

- A thoroughly modern embodiment of Japanese culture and tradition
- 800-year-old garden centred around a meditative pond
- Seven spa treatment rooms, including a couples' spa suite
- Garden Tea House by day sake bar by night
- Myoho-In and Sanjusangendo Temples are just five minutes from the property

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Mar 1, 2021 - Mar 9, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$17,200 pp	AU\$8,080	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Mar 19, 2021 - Mar 27, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,845 pp	AU\$9,255	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Mar 22, 2021 - Mar 30, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,845 pp	AU\$9,255	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Mar 26, 2021 - Apr 3, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,845 pp	AU\$9,255	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Apr 2, 2021 - Apr 10, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,845 pp	AU\$9,255	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Apr 9, 2021 - Apr 17, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,845 pp	AU\$9,255	AU\$0	Call for Availability

May 7, 2021 - May 15, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,520 pp	AU\$8,815	AU\$0	Call for Availability

May 14, 2021 - May 22, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,520 pp	AU\$8,815	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 10, 2021 - Sep 18, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,520 pp	AU\$8,815	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 15, 2021 - Oct 23, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,110 pp	AU\$9,110	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Nov 5, 2021 - Nov 13, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$19,110 pp	AU\$9,110	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

**Call Us Now on
1300 851 924
within Australia**

Melbourne Office:

T: +61 (0)3 9536 1800

F: +61 (0) 3 9536 1805

E: contact@abercrombiekent.com.au

Address

Level 3, 290 Coventry St
South Melbourne, VIC, 3205

International:

New Zealand Call: 0800 441 638

Asia Call: 800 4747 7700