



CLASSIC JAPAN - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

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



Asia, Japan



9 days from AU\$22,410 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

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 culinary treasures.

Journey Highlights

- Behold the exalted flowering cherry trees, known locally as sakura, or view the vivid red leaves of autumn
- Experience neon-lit Tokyo and feel the vitality of this buzzy world capital, playing taiko drums and visiting a seafood market
- Stay at Gôra Kadan, one of the country's most exclusive ryokans (traditional inns), thanks to A&K's small group size
- Zoom by bullet train along the classic stretch past majestic Mount Fuji to Osaka, where you enjoy exploring the lively Dotonbori district
- Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Japan 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, located near the Imperial Palace.

Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi

Day 2: Tokyo | Spiritual Centres & Exclusive Workshop

Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, a colourful pagoda-style temple completed in 645 and dedicated to Kannon, the goddess of mercy in several East Asian spiritual traditions. 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 before exploring the Tokyo National Museum, home to a vast collection of Japanese art and antiquities. 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 a local fish market, a bustling hub of Japanese daily life boasting a dizzying array of seafood. Then, receive a lesson in sushi making, followed by lunch, during a Chef's Table experience. This afternoon, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Explore Tokyo's Art Scene** with a visit to Mori Art Museum or the Museum of Contemporary Art.
- **Learn the Secrets of the Samurai Warriors** and test your sword skills during a private class led by a modern-day master samurai.
- **Indulge in a Sake Tasting**, sampling some of Japan's finest sake 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 immerse yourself in the stunning beauty of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Board an aerial tram rising above the wooded slopes for inspiring views of Mount Fuji. Enjoy lunch before strolling the grassy hillsides of Hakone's Open Air Museum. Admire the impressive contemporary sculptures and artwork on display, including pieces by Henry Moore and Rodin. The museum also features one of the world's finest Picasso exhibits, with over 100 works by the cubist master. Tonight, experience unparalleled service and traditional Japanese cuisine at Gôra Kadan, a top-rated ryokan (traditional inn), which is also your 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 okonomiyaki, 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, on a Scenic Sundowner before you set out to explore the popular Dotonbori District, sampling dishes from the brilliantly lighted and gastronomically creative restaurants that line the street.

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. Afterward, experience a Shinto ceremony firsthand at the celebrated Kasuga Taisha Shrine. 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 you enjoy dinner.

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 and surrounded by green gardens — 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.

Hotel the Mitsui Kyoto, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa | Meals: BL

Day 8: Kyoto | Hillside Views & Tea Traditions

Visit Kiyomizu-dera Temple for stunning views of Kyoto. Proceed to a local temple to experience the art of the tea ceremony, noting its refined sense of hospitality and etiquette, which dates 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.

Hotel the Mitsui Kyoto, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa | 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.

Please note: Cherry Blossoms & Red Leaves | Springtime in Japan is glorious, with the iconic *sakura* (cherry blossoms) on full display. Likewise, autumn's red maple leaves are inspiring to behold. Choose from select departures for the chance to set eyes on them. Contact A&K for details.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day®
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Extensions



Nikko Pre Tour Extension -
A Luxury Small Group
Journey (2025)

See Details



Hiroshima Post Tour
Extension - A Luxury Small
Group Journey (2025)

See Details

Accommodation

Gôra Kadan



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
- The ultimate in relaxation in the warm alkaline waters of the large hot spring spa
- Facilities include a heated swimming pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, Kadan 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

Dates & Pricing

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

Mar 7, 2025 - Mar 15, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,410 pp	AU\$10,095	AU\$0	Available

Mar 10, 2025 - Mar 18, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,875 pp	AU\$10,555	AU\$0	Available

Mar 14, 2025 - Mar 22, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,875 pp	AU\$10,555	AU\$0	Available

Mar 17, 2025 - Mar 25, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Mar 21, 2025 - Mar 29, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Mar 24, 2025 - Apr 1, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Mar 28, 2025 - Apr 5, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Mar 31, 2025 - Apr 8, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Apr 4, 2025 - Apr 12, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Apr 7, 2025 - Apr 15, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Apr 11, 2025 - Apr 19, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Apr 14, 2025 - Apr 22, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$25,500 pp	AU\$12,240	AU\$0	Available

Apr 18, 2025 - Apr 26, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

May 9, 2025 - May 17, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Call for Availability

May 12, 2025 - May 20, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

May 16, 2025 - May 24, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

May 19, 2025 - May 27, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

May 23, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Sep 15, 2025 - Sep 23, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Sep 22, 2025 - Sep 30, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 29, 2025 - Oct 7, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Oct 6, 2025 - Oct 14, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Oct 13, 2025 - Oct 21, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Oct 20, 2025 - Oct 28, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Oct 24, 2025 - Nov 1, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Oct 27, 2025 - Nov 4, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Nov 3, 2025 - Nov 11, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Nov 10, 2025 - Nov 18, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Dec 1, 2025 - Dec 9, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Dec 8, 2025 - Dec 16, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,180 pp	AU\$10,705	AU\$0	Available

Abercrombie & Kent

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