

Mason City Chamber of Commerce presents...

# Cultural Treasures of Japan

March 11 – 24, 2027



Book Now  
& Save  
**\$350**  
Per Person

For more information contact  
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**14 Days • 18 Meals:** 12 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Tokyo, Ginza, Chanting, Meditation & Private Tea Ceremony with a Monk, Hakone, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, Maiko Show

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 4	Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, Tokyo
Day 5	Odakyu Hotel de Yama, Hakone
Days 6, 7	Tokyu Stay Hida-Takayama Musubi no Yu, Takayama
Days 8, 9	Hotel Nikko Kanazawa, Kanazawa
Days 10 – 13	Nikko Princess Hotel Kyoto, Kyoto

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Day 1: Thursday, March 11, 2027 Overnight Flight** Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

**Day 2: Friday, March 12, 2027 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. As arrival times will vary, there is no scheduled sightseeing today. Spend the day as you wish, exploring the city independently.

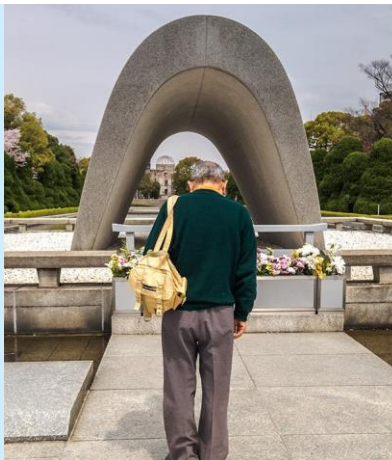
**Day 3: Saturday, March 13, 2027 Tokyo** Amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial 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. Tonight, join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. (B, D)

**Day 4: Sunday, March 14, 2027 Tokyo** Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colorful temple known for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate, with a city tour of Tokyo. 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. (B)

**Day 5: Monday, March 15, 2027 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. (B, D)

**Day 6: Tuesday, March 16, 2027 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. (B, D)

**Day 7: Wednesday, March 17, 2027 Takayama** The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive during a guided walk in the town's historic district. 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. Here, **it's your choice!** Choose to glimpse into the past at the 19th-century Takayama Jinya, a former government building **-OR-** visit the Matsuri Yatai Kaikan and view intricate, traditional, hand-carved floats used in festivals. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own. (B)



## Book Now & Save \$350 Per Person:

Double ~~\$9,379~~; **Double \$9,029\***  
 Single ~~\$10,879~~ **Single \$10,529**

**For bookings made after Aug 12, 2026 call for rates.**

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from Minneapolis St Paul Intl, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers  
**Not included in price:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from MSP

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:** Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

**Day 8: Thursday, March 18, 2027 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 Omicho fish market, 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. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant serving regional specialties. (B, D)

**Day 9: Friday, March 19, 2027 Kanazawa** Today, dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a hands-on lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! Visit the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district, before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture. (B)

**Day 10: Saturday, March 20, 2027 Kanazawa - Kyoto** Today, Kyoto awaits! On arrival, 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 learn to fold intricate origami shapes. (B, D)

**Day 11: Sunday, March 21, 2027 Kyoto** Early this morning, visit 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. 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. Visit the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden. Enjoy the remainder of your day to explore more of Kyoto at leisure. (B)

**Day 12: Monday, March 22, 2027 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. (B)

**Day 13: Tuesday, March 23, 2027 Kyoto** This morning, spend time with a monk at Koshoji Temple,\*\* where you'll have the opportunity to chant and mediate with them. Afterwards, take part in the ancient art of the tea ceremony and learn about its importance in Japanese culture. Take this rare opportunity to learn from and speak to the monk about their daily life. 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. (B, D)

**Day 14: Wednesday, March 24, 2027 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. (B)

### Important Tour Information:

**Book Now rates valid until Aug 12, 2026, valid on air inclusive packages only.**

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

**Travel with an average of 30 people (maximum of 32).**

**For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1355713>**

\*\*The visit to Koshoji Temple will require travelers to remove their shoes. During the mediation, travelers will sit on the floor. Those who cannot sit on the floor will be provided with a chair.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The day we visit Hiroshima from Kyoto will be your longest touring day with an early morning departure before 8:00 a.m. and an evening return to the hotel after 8:00 p.m.

Golden Week is a cluster of national holidays in Japan, including Showa Day (April 29th), Constitution Memorial Day (May 3rd), Greenery Day (May 4th), and Children's Day (May 5th). During Golden Week, popular tourist destinations tend to be extremely crowded, and many businesses, including attractions and restaurants, operate on altered schedules. It's essential to anticipate traffic congestion and longer than usual wait times for any attractions and transportation. We reserve the right to modify the order of your inclusions during this period, without prior notice.

Bon Holiday (Obon) is a Buddhist holiday honoring the spirits of ancestors that occurs in mid-August. During the Bon holiday, many Japanese people travel to their hometowns to pay respects to their ancestors, resulting in increased traffic congestion and crowded public transportation. Some businesses may also close or operate with reduced hours during this time.

Some venues, such as temples and shrines, require travelers to remove their shoes in order to enter. We recommend wearing footwear that is easily removed for sightseeing on these days.

\*The view of Mt. Fuji from the Hakone Ropeway is weather dependent.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected by the observance of religious or local holidays.

In the case of extreme summer heat and humidity, walking tours may be shortened, rescheduled, or replaced with alternative activities to ensure traveler comfort and safety.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. Triple and child accommodations are not available.

This tour provides authentic dining experiences. Vegan, vegetarian, and even gluten-free diets are uncommon in Japan and not widely catered to. If you have any dietary restrictions, please notify us at time of booking so we can accommodate you as best as possible.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

All transfers will depart from the Kyoto hotel for either Kansai Airport or Itami Airport.

Our air travelers will be departing from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport (depending upon your flight schedule).

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Flights arrive into Tokyo and depart from Osaka.

Please be advised, many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Return flights should not be booked from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport prior to 9:00 a.m.



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

### Travel Requirements:

#### 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](http://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.

Each traveler is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal physician for specific details on the destinations you are traveling to and from.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/services/issue-of-permit-to-import-medicines-for-personal-use> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

**A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of August 05, 2026 are based upon availability. Final payment due by December 11, 2026. Deposits are refundable up until August 12, 2026.**

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**For important reservation information visit**  
**<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1355713>.**  
**You can also find this information on your tour documents.**