



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

WORLD HERITAGE & KUMANO KODO AUTUMN TOUR 2020

Mon 9th November - Wed 25th November | 17 days, 16 nights

from A\$7850 per person



TOUR DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

Tour Commences:

Monday 9th November 2020

Tour Finishes:

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Period:

17 days, 16 nights

Price:

\$7850 per person- Single Supplement - \$1200

Short Description:

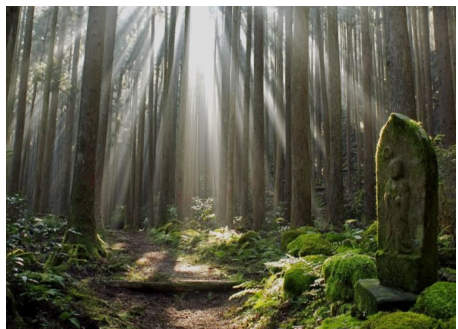
Autumn colours, hot springs, outstanding food, stays in Japan's most popular cities of Tokyo and Kyoto coupled with walking in the footsteps of the ancient pilgrims will revitalise any person seeking a tour offering unrivalled beauty where you will gain an understanding of both historical and contemporary Japan.

Escorted by Mrs. Judy Luxton

Highlights:

- Visit Tokyo's Must See sights including Kamakura, Ginza, Imperial Palace, Asakusa
- Travel by super-fast bullet train
- Stay in a Buddhist temple & experience morning prayers & fire ritual with local monks.
- Minimum 4 star accommodation (except temple stay)
- Walk the spectacular mountainous scenery of Kumano Kodo with a local expert guide
- Enjoy & experience Taiko drumming
- Hot spring bathing in natural onsens and stay in traditional Ryokan accommodation
- Visit Kyoto's major temples, shrines, rock gardens, castle & Fushimi Inari Tori Gates
- Ride the Hozu rapids and walk the streets of Arashiyama & Bamboo Forest
- Visit Ise and stay on the coast at Toba
- Experience excellent Japanese cuisine and local sake, tea ceremony and Kimono dressing
- 12 B'Fasts, 5 Lunches & 7 Dinners included

Book today at:
www.japanholidays.com.au



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Mon 9 Nov : Tokyo

Upon your arrival, Judy will greet you in the lobby of the hotel.

Day of leisure if your arrival is early morning.

Judy will be on hand for any sightseeing- suggestions -Tsujiki markets and
Ginza & Harajuku, Meiji shrine and Omotesando areas

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



Day 2 - Tue 10th Nov : Tokyo

On this Guided walking tour you will see some of Tokyo's most famous sights; Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, Meiji shrine and Omotesando using public transport. This evening we host welcome drinks at a local Izakaya - Japanese style pub, nearby.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



Day 3 - Wed 11th : Kamakura

In the morning, we will arrange to have our large luggage forwarded to Nara, before setting off on a wonderful day trip to Kamakura. Your Japan Holidays guide will show you the harmony of nature, temples and sea along the Enoden tram line. Kamakura is packed with breathtaking scenery, awe-inspiring history, and Buddhist temples, with the autumn foliage making it all the more spectacular. We'll visit Kotoku-in, home to the Kamakura Daibutsu - a serenely seated giant Buddha.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza



ITINERARY

Day 4 & 5 - Thu 12th & Fri 13th Nov : Tokyo - Nara (B)

Before travelling to Nara, we forward our main suitcases to Kyoto and travel with cabin sized bags and a backpack.

Today we will board the bullet train "Shinkansen" and travel quickly to Kyoto- hopefully again seeing Mt Fuji on the way. After check-in at our local ryokan , you'll get an opportunity to visit Nara Park , the deer and the imposing Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before enjoying a local *Okonomiyaki* dinner.

On our 2nd day in Nara, we visit Kasuga Taisha Shrine, decorated with thousands of lanterns and take a walk to explore the Old District, Naramachi and Nara Park with the Ukimido Gazebo floats on Sagiike Pond.

Accommodation : Ryokan Matsumae or similar



Day 6 - Sat 14th Nov : Nara - Koyasan (B,D)

After a wonderful Western/Japanese breakfast, we head to Koyasan via trains and one of the steepest cable cars in Japan. After meeting our expert Koyasan Guide, Noriko-san we board a bus to our temple and leave our luggage (check in is not available until 3pm). Afterwards, we have lunch before visiting Koyasan's temple complex. Amid 900m high mountains, you can view World Heritage-listed temples, monasteries and assembly buildings before dinner - served at 5:30pm in the temple; vegetarian Buddhist cuisine. After dinner, you are welcome to spend more time in the Temple, or you can depart on the night tour through Okunoin Cemetery, or you can see the head temple - Kongobu-ji lit up.

Accommodation : Fudo-in Temple Lodging, Koyasan or similar

Day 7 - Sun 15th Nov : Wakayama (B,D)

Very early this morning, you have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist Ceremony (6.00am) followed by a fire ritual at 6.30 before breakfast. The group will meet with our guide Noriko for a morning of sightseeing before departing for our next stay at around 2.00pm. Enjoy a scenic drive to Ryujin village and relax in a traditional onsen and an amazing Kaiseki dinner at Kamigoten Ryokan, a traditional inn originally built for a feudal lord that has been in the Ryujin family for 29 generations.

Accommodation : Kamigoten Ryokan



ITINERARY

Day 8 - Mon 16th Nov : Kumano Kodo (B, L, D)

After breakfast, the group will drive to Takahara to hike the Kumano Kodo, from Takahara to Chikatsuyu-Oji (9.3km, 6 hours). The group will be provided with a picnic lunch- eaten at Jujo-oji, sandwiches or a Japanese bento (lunch box), and then set off with our local expert guide, Mr Nishiihata for the walk. After the day's walking is finished, the group will drive to Kawayu Onsen to relax in the hot springs before dinner. We cater for non-walkers on this day with another guide and transport to visit the local villages and coastline of Wakayama.

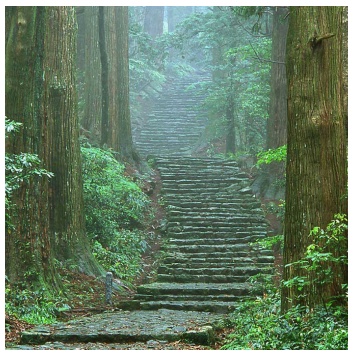
Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan



Day 9 - Tue 17th Nov : Kumano Kodo Wakayama (B,L,D)

After a buffet breakfast, the group will drive to Hosshinmon-oji and walk the Kumano Kodo from Hosshinmon-oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (8km, 3 hours). (For those not walking, we are able to have them spend time at the visitors centre and view the videos and presentations along with the Kumano Hongu Taisha.) After a sandwich/obento picnic lunch with a local Shizo drink at Fushigami-Oji, the group will see the Kumano Hongu Taisha (the main Kumano Shrine in Japan), Oyunohara and the Giant Torii Gateway. Leisure time until 3:45pm when we meet up at the Kumano Hongu Heritage Centre and drive to Yunomine Onsen - one of only two World Heritage Listed hot springs around the globe. Once the day is finished, the group will drive back to Kawayu Onsen and after dinner enjoy a Taiko Drum performance.

Accommodation : Kawayu Midoriya Ryokan



Day 10 - Wed 18th Nov : Wakayama (B,L,D)

Today we leave Midoriya and drive to the pier to ride in traditional boats down the UNESCO Heritage Listed Kumanogawa River. This 90 minute traditional boat ride traces the transportation of the Pilgrims many years ago. After visiting Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-Jinja, the group will head to Katsuura. We stop off at Daimonzaka and walk the Kumano Kodo 1km to Kumano Nachi Taisha and waterfall. Today there are many steps to walk. We depart at 5:15pm back to Katsuura and take the ferry boat to Urashima Hotel - a James Bond like fortress and a popular holiday spot for Japanese who love tuna and coastal onsens. Tonight we enjoy a kaiseki meal & relax in the town's hot springs and cave baths (Bukido) after a big day.

Accommodation : Hotel Urashima Sanjokan

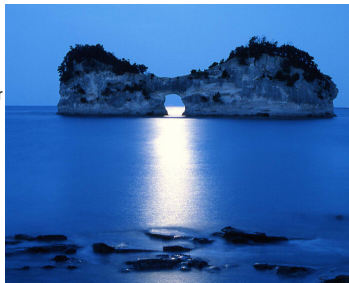


ITINERARY

Day 11 - Thu 19th Nov : Wakayama - Shirahama (B)

Some may wish to rise early before breakfast to attend the Fish/Tuna Markets. This is one of the largest Tuna only markets in Japan. We return to the hotel for your buffet breakfast, after which we travel up the west coast of Wakayama, enjoying a traditional Tea ceremony in a local house, visit the Sandanbecki Rock Cliffs and caves, lunching at Senjojiki then venturing to Heisogen Park prior to check in where the sun will be setting through Engetsu

Accommodation : Key Terrace Hotel Seamore or similar



Day 12 - Fri 20th Nov : Wakayama City (B,D)

Today we will see how Shoyu - soy sauce is made at the Yuasa Soy factory in both the traditional and modern way. WE may get to see a tuna cutting show at the Kuroshio Markets before discovering the sight of Wakayama city where will visit a tea house and taste Japanese sweets within the castle grounds.

Dinner at a local restaurant is arranged this evening

Accommodation : Granvia Wakayama Hotel

Day 13 - Sat 21st Nov : Wakayama City to Kyoto

Travelling to Kyoto by train, we shall have a rest day with a number of suggestions for your days' activities or rest - Please pre-book anything in particular you wish prior to departure

Accommodation : Intergate Kyoto Shijo Shinmachi



ITINERARY

Day 14 - Sun 22nd Nov : Kyoto (B/L)

After Breakfast we will depart at 8.30 am for our sightseeing tour of Kyoto by private coach. Nijo Castle which was built by the Tokugawa Shogun in 1603 is beautifully detailed and has specially-constructed "nightingale" floors to warn of approaching visitors/intruders are of particular interest; Kinkakuji Temple or "Golden Pavilion" which still exudes an impression of timelessness; Ryoanji which is rightly famous for its exquisite garden of raked sand and 15 judiciously placed rocks and designed in 1473; and Fushimi Inari Shrine with its more than 7000 vermillion hued Torii gates which have been donated by members of the public. Japan Holidays will host lunch at a local Machiya house for a Tempura feast.

Accommodation : Intergate Kyoto Shijo Shinmachi



Day 15 - Mon 23rd Nov : Kyoto (B)

Today we travel to Arashiyama Sagano area of Kyoto and spend time viewing the Serene Bamboo forest and Arashiyama . We shall also ride the "Romance" train into the mountains and return via boat down the gentle "white water" to Arashiyama. This area is noted for its blazing maple colours in autumn and was a favourite of Emperors and Nobles throughout Japanese history. This evening we shall walk the Gion area and hopefully see a Maiko or Geiko during their work hours and learn all about this area and the education of Kyoto's Geisha

Accommodation : Intergate Kyoto Shijo Shinmachi



Day 16 - Tue 24th Nov: Kyoto - Free Day (B/D)

Today is a free day to explore Kyoto or nearby places at your leisure or do some last minute shopping. Japan Holidays will host a farewell dinner on this night.



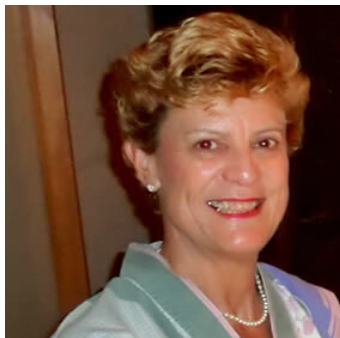
ITINERARY



Day 17 - Wed 25th Nov : Kyoto - End of Tour (B)

This is the last day of your tour. For those departing from Itami or Kansai airport there will be a shared shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Sayonara



Your Escort - Mrs Judy Luxton

Ever since visiting Japan for the first time in 1972 as a teenager, Judy has had a fascination and interest in Japan which took her back in 1975 to swim at their Nationals. Upon marriage to her husband Tony, who lived in Japan for over 10 years and speaks the language fluently, she has travelled many times each year in all seasons to explore and experience a wide range of activities in many areas of Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Her passion for everything Japanese grows each time she visits the country, from the warm, caring people, the fascinating history, diverse scenery, traditions, modern technologies and the delicious traditional and new cuisine. Her wealth of knowledge, passion and networks across all areas of business within Japan has seen her professionally escort many successful tours to Japan.

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION TOURS to
Hiroshima, Takayama and or Kanazawa are Available.
PLEASE ENQUIRE**



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