

LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

Classic Japan

9 days from \$11,995 | Limited to 18 guests

Hiroshima

3-day Post-Tour Extension from \$3,795

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.

& A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Behold the exalted flowering cherry trees, known locally as *sakura*, or view the vivid red leaves 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 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 savor 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

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 | Spirit 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 specializes 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 colorful 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: B L D

DAY 3: Tokyo | Design Your Day

Start your day at a local 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 Chef's Table experience. This afternoon, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- ▶ **Explore the Mori Art Museum** to take in local contemporary art.
- ▶ **Experience the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum**, learning about the customs of this ancient Japanese art form of cultivation.
- ▶ **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: B L

"A beautiful country and great A&K service combined to make this an excellent journey."

— Alan; Waban, MA; November 2019

DAY 4: Hakone | Traditional Ryokan

Travel to Hakone, among Japan's most popular hot-spring destinations, and view the forested slopes of Hakone



Enjoy traditional entertainment by a geisha over dinner in Kyoto

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. Savor 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 Gôra Kadan, a top-rated

ryokan (traditional inn), which is also your authentic accommodation for the night. **Gôra Kadan | Meals: B L D**

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



Visit the meticulously manicured Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto



Choose from select spring departures for the best chance to experience magical cherry-blossom time



Discover Tokyo's rich, historic culture and stunning modern skyline

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 on a foodie tour in the popular Dotonbori District, sampling dishes from the brilliantly lit and gastronomically creative restaurants that line the street. **The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: B L**

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 you enjoy dinner. **The St. Regis Osaka | Meals: B L D**

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 neighborhood, 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: B L**

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, savor 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: B D**

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**

CHERRY BLOSSOMS & RED LEAVES



Springtime in Japan is glorious, with the iconic *sakura* (cherry blossoms) on full display. Likewise, fall's red maple leaves are inspiring to behold. Choose from select departures for the chance to set eyes on them. See Dates & Pricing on next page for specific departures.

TRAVEL PRIVATELY WITH A&K

This itinerary is available as a private journey, Signature Japan. Priced from \$15,995.



INSPIRING ACCOMMODATIONS



Gōra Kadan
Intimate *ryokan* (traditional inn) located in Hakone National Park.



Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi — New, luxurious hotel near the Imperial Palace.



The St. Regis Osaka
Luxurious, award-winning hotel located near the city center.



Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto
Beautiful and contemporary hotel set among tranquil gardens.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY



Hiroshima Post-Tour Extension

3 days from \$3,795 | Available on all departures.

Journey from Kyoto to the historic town of Uji, and visit the Byodoin Omotesando and Tale of Genji Museum. Proceed to Osaka for an overnight stay. Ride by bullet train to Hiroshima and visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, and see the Itsukushima Shrine. Return to Osaka to depart.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Mar 4-12	\$11,995	\$5,795
Mar 18-26*, Mar 21-29*	\$13,495	\$6,395
Mar 25-Apr 2*, Mar 28-Apr 5*, Apr 1-9*, Apr 8-16*	\$13,995	\$6,795
Apr 15-23, Apr 22-30	\$13,495	\$6,395
May 9-17, May 13-21, Sep 9-17, Sep 16-24	\$12,995	\$6,295
Oct 7-15, Oct 10-18, Oct 14-22, Oct 21-29 [‡] , Nov 4-12 [‡] , Nov 11-19 [‡]	\$13,495	\$6,395

*Best opportunity to see the cherry blossoms of spring. Yearly timing varies slightly.

[‡]Best opportunity to view the red leaves of fall. Yearly timing varies slightly.

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.