

# Japan Tour - April 2018

Cherry Blossom Spring, Culture, Martial Arts & Crafts



## Tour Overview

This 16 Day tour starts in Tokyo with one full day for our initial “Japan orientation”.

The overall itinerary is as per following table.

Tokyo	2	Wed. 4 Apr. 18	Fri. 6 Apr. 18
Kanazawa	3	Fri. 6 Apr. 18	Mon. 9 Apr. 18
Kyoto	5	Mon. 9 Apr. 18	Sat. 14 Apr. 18
Okayama	3	Sat. 14 Apr. 18	Tue. 17 Apr. 18
Tokyo	3	Tue. 17 Apr. 18	Fri. 20 Apr. 18
	<b>16</b>	nights accom	

### Cherry Blossoms: -

predicting the location & timing of cherry blossoms is like predicting the weather, however the places we visit will have some degree of cherry blossom - not quite yet, early buds, early blooms, full blooms, late blooms. Just where these phases will be seen cannot be predicted accurately, but the most likely full bloom experience will be in Kyoto, and Takayama may be “not quite”, or “early buds”. Early blooms may be visible in Tokyo.

Having received a brief urban fix in Tokyo, we catch a shinkansen express train through the Central Alps and along the Japan Sea coast for three nights in the regional town of [Kanazawa](#).

Kanazawa is a gateway to the World Heritage steep thatch roofed village at Shirakawa-go. One of Japan’s most famous gardens - Kenrokuen - is in Kanazawa. We may be able to visit a Sake brewery and have a tasting experience.

From Kanazawa we travel to [Kyoto](#) where we have four full days plus some time on the arrival and departure days. How we use the time is for you to decide as we go along. There is a list of some of the iconic sites in the itinerary overview. Otherwise, your suggestions and requests are limited only by the time available.

We then leave Kyoto to head further west. The next stay is at Okayama, which is our western gateway to access [Hiroshima](#), [Miyajima](#) and [Naoshima](#). Okayama also has it’s own Castle, famous gardens and other local attractions. Please click on the links to learn more about these destinations.

The time has now come to start our homeward bound journey.

We take the Shinkansen from Okayama to Tokyo. On the way, we may stop at Himeji to see the most important feudal castle in Japan. Or we could stop at Kobe to visit an earthquake museum that tells the story of the Kobe earthquake that occurred in the 1990's.

Our stay in Tokyo is for 3 full days plus part of the arrival and departure days. Some possible activities include:


- Kodokan - the Tokyo home of Judo.
- Sumo Museum in the Tokyo Sumo district of Ryogoku
- Craft stores - there are a range of general and specialty stores
- Asakusa district:-
  - Sensoji - one of the most famous buddhist temples in Tokyo
  - Kappabashi (Kitchen Town) - everything to do with catering and kitchens
  - Hundreds of traditional craft stores
  - Sumida river
- Excursion to Kamakura

## Accommodation

This is the list of accommodation currently booked.

### Tokyo

BOOKING NUMBER: 1029329082    PINCODE: 7236    BOOKED BY: JAMES STEPHENSON



[Richmond Hotel Premier Asakusa International](#) ★★★★★  
111-0032 Tokyo Prefecture, Taito-ku Asakusa 2-6-7, Japan

Rated 'Superb' - 9.2 on Booking.com

### Kanazawa



[APA Villa Hotel Kanazawa Katamachi](#) ★★★★★  
920-0981 Ishikawa, Kanazawa, Katamachi 2-2-13, Japan

Rated 'Very Good' - 8.2 on Booking.com

### Kyoto

**HOTEL ANTEROOM KYOTO** Three Star  
rated 8.7 'Fabulous' on Booking.com

## Okayama



### [Daiwa Roynet Hotel Okayama Ekimae](#) ★★☆☆

700-0023 Okayama, Okayama, Kita-ku Ekimae-machi 1-1-1, Japan

Rated 'Very Good' 8.5 on Booking.com

*Jim will be staying at a nearby hotel*

## Tokyo



### [MOXY Tokyo Kinshicho](#) ★★☆☆ + Company favourite

130-0022 Tokyo Prefecture, Sumida-ku, Kotobashi 3-4-2, Japan

Newly opened - customer rating not yet available.

*Jim will be staying at a nearby hotel*

## Day by Day Summary

### Wednesday 4th April Brisbane > Tokyo

- Clear immigration
- Board NRX for Tokyo Stn
- Change to Tsukuba Express and get off at Asakusa
- Walk to Richmond Hotel

### Thursday 5th April Tokyo

- Isetatsu Paper and Craft Store - Yanaka
  -
- Martial Art Centre

### Friday 6th April Tokyo > Kanazawa

- Leave Tokyo ~ 8:20 am, arrive Kanazawa 11 am
- Check luggage in lockers
- Local sightseeing

### Saturday 7th April Kanazawa

- Shirakawago
  - Hokutetsu Bus Service Tickets Reserved & paid for - 8.40am departure

Return Bus

Booked and paid for the 3.55pm departure.

### Sunday 8th April Kanazawa

- Local sightseeing

## Monday 9th April Kanazawa > Kyoto

- Option to leave Kanazawa after lunch to arrive in Kyoto mid / late afternoon - leave 13:50, arrive 16:09

## Tuesday 10th ~ 13th April Kyoto

- 4 full days in the Kyoto Region, with a wide range of attractions available
- Further planning to take place upon arrival in Japan

## Saturday 14th April Kyoto > Okayama

- Leave for Okayama early, to permit more time local sightseeing in Okayama

## Sunday 15th April Okayama

- Visit Naoshima (Closed Monday)

## Monday 16th April Okayama

- Visit Hiroshima

## Tuesday 17th April Okayama>Tokyo

- Break Journey at Himeji to visit the castle

## Wednesday 18th ~ 19th April Tokyo

- 2 full days in Tokyo - programme to be determined
- Possibility of a day return trip to a destination within reach of Tokyo:-
  - Hakone / Fuji, or
  - Nikko, or
  - Kamakura

## Friday 20th April Tokyo > Brisbane

- Get ready for departure, leave bags at hotel or in railway station lockers
- Local activity
- Collect bags and head for airport mid afternoon.

## Tour Activities

The following is a list of activities that can be included, the extent is subject to the general pace of the tour, which is subject to guest's energy levels. There is no fixed programme. We plan each day's activities on-the-go 1 or 2 days ahead.

### Cuisine

- a range of traditional Japanese, modern Japanese and "fusion" meals at moderate price range
- some "special occasion" meals at a higher price point.

Landscape Gardens

Heian Shrine Garden (Kyoto)

Kenrokuen (Kanazawa)

Korakuen (Okayama)

World Heritage sites

Shirakawa Go village (from Takayama)

Ryoanji (Zen rock garden, Kyoto)

## Natural Scenery

- Mt Fuji (atmospherics permitting)
- Miyajima (Island near Hiroshima)
- Central Alps
- Enoshima coastline (from Tokyo)
- Hozu Gorge (Arashiyama, Kyoto)
- Naoshima (island near Okayama, in the Inland Sea)

## Museums & Galleries

- Miho Museum
- Chichu Museum Naoshima (Monet, Turrell, Walter de Maria)
- Tadao Ando (museum of his work, Naoshima)
- Village art projects (Naoshima)
- Gallery of traditional arts & crafts (Kyoto)
- Peace Museum & monument (Hiroshima)
- Home of 17th C Haiku Poet Kyorai (Arashiyama)

### Feudal Castles

- Himeji Castle (hilltop style, Himeji)
- Nijo Castle (plainland style, Kyoto)

## Temples & Shrines

- Heian Shrine (Kyoto)
- Kyomizu Temple (Kyoto)
- Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Kyoto)
- Itsukushima Shrine (Miyajima, near Hiroshima)
- Todaiji (very large buddha in very large timber building, Nara)

## Shopping

- Covered shopping markets (Nishiki in Kyoto)
- Department and Tech stores
- Gifts & souvenirs
- Japanese convenience stores
- Streetside market districts

### Transport Modes

- Shinkansen (bullet) very fast train
- Other express trains
- Subway & local trains
- Suspended monorail
- Streetcars
- Cable cars & ropeways (gondolas)
- Ferries

## Townscapes & rural scapes

- Ginza (Tokyo)
- Gion (Kyoto)
- Fishing village (Naoshima)
- Machiya district (Kyoto)
- Temple precincts
- Megastructures (Skytree tower in Tokyo, Kyoto Railway Station)
- Typical middle class suburban district (Arashiyama)
- Rural landscapes with ricefields, solar farms, scattered dwellings
- 3 storey "Gassho Tzukuri" thatch roofed farmhouses (Shirakawa)

## Tour Cost

Group size affects cost per person:

### Approximate alternative group size and tour length costings

No nights >	16	10	7
No Guests V			
4	\$6,851	\$5,242	\$4,459
3	\$7,685	\$6,120	\$5,337
2	\$9,440	\$7,875	\$7,092

***Just add the air-fare for your choice of seat and route***

We encourage you to organise your own group, but can sometimes introduce other guests to make up numbers to meet your price-point.

## Inclusions and Exclusions

### Inclusions:

Accommodation

Intercity travel (incl airport transfers)

Local travel, meals, snacks, attractions

*Jims Japan costs & tour fee is included*

*Many of the above costs can be affected by personal preferences - Jims Japan will work with you to get the right balance*

### Exclusions:

Discretionary expenditures such as alcoholic drinks, gifts, souvenirs

Individual travel insurance (required)

Your airfares to and from Japan

### Important:

Price may vary according to exchange rate fluctuations, and actual accommodation and airfare prices at time of booking