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PILGRIMAGE · ITINERARY

Tour Japan

JAPAN

9 DAY ITINERARY

JAPAN · 9 DAYS · CURATED JOURNEY

HOLY LAND TOURS AND TRAVEL, LLC

THE JOURNEY

Tour Japan, Day by Day

Tour Japan Experience a unique and inspiring pilgrimage to Japan, exploring the history of Christianity in Asia and the powerful witness of the Japanese Martyrs. This fully-guided journey blends faith, culture, and reflection across sacred Christian sites. Depart the USA, Canada or other parts of th...

9	Tour Japan	Japan
DAYS	DESTINATION	REGION

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1

DAY 01

Kyoto - Fushimi Inari Taisha

01

Start your journey in Kyoto with a visit to the iconic Fushimi Inari Taisha, renowned for its thousands of vibrant vermillion torii gates that wind through the sacred Mount Inari. As you ascend the mountain, you'll encounter beautiful shrines and breathtaking views. This shrine is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice and agriculture, making it a significant cultural site. The atmosphere is serene and spiritual, perfect for reflection and photography. Make sure to explore the trails that lead deeper into the forest, where the crowds thin out, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the tranquility of the surroundings.

DAY 2

DAY 02

Kyoto - Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)

02

On your second day, visit the stunning Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion. This Zen Buddhist temple, coated in brilliant gold leaf, is surrounded by meticulously landscaped gardens and a serene pond that reflects its beauty. As you stroll through the grounds, take in the peaceful ambiance and the sight of the temple shimmering in the sunlight. The gardens are a perfect example of traditional Japanese landscaping, offering a tranquil space for contemplation. Be sure to capture the perfect photograph from the viewpoints around the pond, as it is one of the most photographed sites in Japan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 3

DAY 03

Kyoto - Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

03

Day three takes you to the enchanting Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. As you walk through the towering bamboo stalks, you'll be enveloped by a sense of calm and serenity. The sound of the wind rustling through the bamboo creates a natural symphony, making it a perfect spot for quiet reflection and photography. The grove is also home to various paths that lead to other attractions such as the Iwatayama Monkey Park and the scenic Togetsukyo Bridge. Don't forget to explore the nearby temples and the picturesque town of Arashiyama, which adds to the charm of your visit.

DAY 4

Kyoto - Nijo Castle

04

On day four, visit Nijo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site that showcases the power and prestige of the shogunate during Japan's feudal era. The castle features stunning architecture, beautiful gardens, and historical elements that provide insights into its past. As you walk through the main halls, admire the intricate woodwork and the famous 'nightingale floors' that chirp when walked upon, designed to thwart intruders. Explore the expansive gardens filled with seasonal flowers, ponds, and traditional tea houses, offering a peaceful escape from the city's bustle. This visit combines rich history with breathtaking beauty.

DAY 5

Kyoto - Gion District

05

Your fifth day will immerse you in the traditional culture of Kyoto as you explore the Gion District, famous for its historic wooden machiya houses and vibrant geisha culture. Stroll along Hanami-koji Street, where you might catch a glimpse of geisha or maiko on their way to appointments. Enjoy a traditional tea ceremony in one of the local tea houses and learn about the customs and artistry involved. As the sun sets, the lanterns illuminate the streets, creating a magical atmosphere. Gion is also home to several museums and shops selling traditional crafts, making it a perfect blend of culture and commerce.

DAY 6

Kyoto - Ryoan-ji

06

Day six is dedicated to the tranquil Ryoan-ji, known for its famous rock garden, which epitomizes Zen philosophy. The simplicity and arrangement of the rocks and gravel create a meditative space that invites quiet contemplation. Spend time sitting on the benches and observing the garden, allowing its beauty to inspire introspection. The temple grounds also feature beautiful ponds and traditional architecture, making it a serene environment for a peaceful escape. Ryoan-ji offers a glimpse into the spiritual side of Japanese culture, emphasizing the importance of nature and simplicity in Zen practices.

DAY 7

Kyoto - Kiyomizu-dera

07

On day seven, visit the iconic Kiyomizu-dera, a historic wooden temple perched on a hillside offering spectacular views of Kyoto. The temple is famous for its wooden stage that juts out over the hillside, providing a breathtaking panorama, especially during cherry blossom season. Explore the grounds, which include beautiful gardens, a waterfall believed to grant wishes, and various shrines. The temple's architecture is a marvel, showcasing the ingenuity of ancient Japanese builders. Kiyomizu-dera is not only a cultural treasure but also a spiritual haven, making it a must-visit during your journey in Kyoto.

DAY 8

Kyoto - Philosopher's Path

08

Day eight invites you to take a leisurely stroll along the Philosopher's Path, a scenic walkway that follows a cherry-tree-lined canal. This peaceful path offers a perfect setting for reflection and relaxation, especially during cherry blossom season when the trees bloom in a stunning display of pink and white. Along the way, you'll find quaint shops, cafes, and small temples, allowing for spontaneous exploration. As you walk, take the time to appreciate the natural beauty surrounding you and the tranquility of the waterway. The Philosopher's Path is a beautiful embodiment of Kyoto’s charm and serenity.

DAY 9

DAY 09

Kyoto - Sanjusangendo and Nishiki Market

09

Conclude your journey in Kyoto with visits to Sanjusangendo and Nishiki Market. Start at Sanjusangendo, famous for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. This temple is an artistic masterpiece and offers a unique insight into Buddhist culture. Afterward, head to Nishiki Market, a vibrant marketplace where you can explore a variety of local delicacies, traditional crafts, and souvenirs. Sample street food, including pickles, sweets, and fresh seafood, while soaking in the lively atmosphere. This final day combines spirituality with culinary delights, making it a fitting end to your Kyoto adventure.

Your Journey Awaits

Every detail of your journey through Tour Japan has been thoughtfully arranged. Our team is here to help you make it unforgettable.

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PREPARED NOVEMBER 23, 2026