

# A 14-Day Pilgrimage to Japan and South Korea with Fr. Mel Monreal & St. Michael's Catholic Parish

Celebrate Daily Mass and Explore Eastern Faith & Culture

08/21/2025 - 09/03/2025

## Day 1

Departure: Today we board our overnight flights to Tokyo with beverages and snacks served aloft.

## Day 2

We arrive this evening in Tokyo, and we are greeted by our Holy Land Travel Center Representative. We then transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight: Tokyo (Dinner)

## Day 3

Begin your day at Meiji Shrine, a tranquil spot honoring Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, nestled in a lush forest. Next, visit the Imperial Palace's East Gardens for historic views and serene landscapes. Head to Tokyo Skytree for panoramic city views, including Mount Fuji on clear days. In the afternoon, explore Sensoji Temple, pass through Kaminarimon Gate, and shop on Nakamise Street. Dive into Akihabara's anime, manga, and electronics scene. Conclude with dinner at a local restaurant in Shinjuku, savoring diverse culinary delights and the vibrant dining scene. Return to your hotel. Overnight: Tokyo (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 4

Begin at the Odaiba Statue of Liberty, symbolizing Japan-France friendship, with views of Tokyo Bay and the Rainbow Bridge. Enjoy a waterfront walk and cityscape views. Next, visit Harajuku, known for eclectic fashion, trendy boutiques, and quirky street art. Explore Takeshita Street's colorful shops, cafes, and food stalls, and soak in the youthful, creative atmosphere. Browse unique clothing stores and sample delicious crepes and street food. This vibrant blend of scenic and cultural experiences makes for an exciting Tokyo adventure. Finally, transfer to the cruise port and embark on your cruise. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 5

Start at the Mt. Fuji World Heritage Center, showcasing Mount Fuji's natural beauty and cultural significance through interactive exhibits and panoramic views. Learn about its geological formation and role in Japanese art and literature. Proceed to Fujisan Hongu Sengentaisha Shrine, a significant Shinto shrine at the mountain's base, featuring ancient rituals and serene gardens. Conclude with Miho-no-Matsubara, a picturesque pine grove and beach offering stunning views of Mount Fuji across Suruga Bay. Stroll the scenic coastline, then return to the cruise ship. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 6

Start your day at Nagoya Castle, a historic landmark known for its impressive architecture and cultural significance. Explore the meticulously reconstructed Honmaru Palace, with its ornate details and golden shachihoko roof ornaments. Learn about the castle's role in feudal Japan, its strategic importance, and samurai heritage. Continue your cultural journey at Atsuta Shrine, one of Japan's most revered Shinto shrines. Discover its sacred treasures, including the Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi sword, and wander through tranquil forested grounds. Visit the main hall, auxiliary shrines, and witness traditional rituals performed by shrine priests, learning about the shrine's history and significance in local festivals. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)


## Day 7

Begin your journey with a peaceful walk through the enchanting Bamboo Forest in Arashiyama, where towering bamboo stalks create a serene atmosphere. Enjoy a scenic drive through Arashiyama, passing the Togetsu-Kyo Bridge and admiring views of the Katsura River and surrounding mountains. Visit Kinkakuji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and admire the Golden Pavilion covered in gold leaf, reflecting on the pond. Learn about its history and Zen Buddhist influence. Explore Nishiki Market, sampling street food and local delicacies. Conclude at Kiyomizu-dera Temple, marveling at its architecture and panoramic views. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 8


Begin your day with a visit to Tokushima Castle, a historic fortress built in 1585. Explore the reconstructed Honmaru Palace, showcasing traditional Japanese architecture and artifacts. Learn about Tokushima's feudal history and samurai culture while enjoying panoramic views of the city from the observation decks. Stroll through Omote Goten Gardens, featuring serene ponds, sculpted pine trees, and seasonal flowers. Discover ancient stone bridges, tea houses, and scenic viewpoints. Conclude at Awa Odori Hall with a captivating performance of Awa Odori dance and explore exhibits on this vibrant cultural festival. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 9




Begin your day at Dogo Onsen Area, one of Japan's oldest and most renowned hot spring resorts. Discover Dogo Onsen Honkan, a historic bathhouse dating back over 1,000 years, celebrated for its elegant wooden architecture and therapeutic waters. Wander through nearby streets lined with traditional shops, cafes, and ryokan (Japanese inns), immersing yourself in the timeless allure of Japanese hot spring culture. Continue with a visit to Ishiteji Temple, one of the 88 temples on the Shikoku Pilgrimage route. Marvel at its ornate pagoda, main hall, and Niomon Gate, showcasing intricate Buddhist artwork and architecture. Explore serene gardens and meditation spaces, gaining insight into Japanese religious traditions. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 12




Begin your exploration of Jeju Island with a visit to Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak, also known as Sunrise Peak. Trek up this volcanic crater for panoramic views of the sea and lush landscape, whether at sunrise or any time of day, appreciating its UNESCO World Heritage status. Continue to Seopjikoji, a scenic cape renowned for its dramatic coastline and filming spots for Korean dramas. Capture the beauty of the East Sea and Seopji Windmill Hill. Immerse yourself in Jeju's culture at Seongeup Folk Village, showcasing traditional architecture and customs. Visit Jeju Stone Park to learn about volcanic formations. Conclude at Dongmun Market for local delicacies and souvenirs. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 10




Start your day at Takasakiyama Natural Zoological Garden on Mount Takasaki. Enjoy panoramic views of Beppu Bay from observation decks. Explore Beppu's Jigoku (Hell) hot springs, beginning with the vivid Sea Hell (Umi Jigoku) with its cobalt-blue waters and lush gardens. Visit the Blood Pond Hell (Chinoike Jigoku) known for its red waters from iron oxide. Experience the bubbling mud pools and geyser-like eruptions of Watersprout Hell (Oniishibozu Jigoku). Conclude at Shiraike Jigoku with its milky-white waters and peaceful surroundings. Return to port and board our cruise ship, cruising through the scenic Kanmon Strait in the afternoon, known for its dramatic currents and stunning coastal vistas. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 13




Begin your day with a visit to Changdeokgung Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site from the Joseon Dynasty. Next, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Gwangjang Market, Seoul's oldest and largest traditional market. Wander through narrow alleys bustling with stalls offering fresh produce, seafood, textiles, and handmade goods. Sample popular street foods such as bindaetteok, teokbokki, and mayak gimbap, savoring the flavors of Korean cuisine. Conclude your day at Namsangol Hanok Village, where you can stroll among traditional Korean houses and participate in cultural activities. Later, we returned to our cruise ship docked in the harbor overnight. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 11



Begin your day at Sofukuji Temple, a Chinese-style temple established in 1629 by Nagasaki's Chinese residents. Explore its intricate gates, wood-carved prayer halls, and tranquil gardens, reflecting on its cultural significance and spiritual role for Japan's Chinese community. Visit the Martyrdom site of the 26 Saints. In the afternoon, delve into Nagasaki's cultural tapestry at the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture. Discover exhibits on the city's international trade, resilience post-World War II, and Western influences. Ascend Mount Inasa via scenic ropeway for panoramic views of Nagasaki's cityscape and harbor, famed for its stunning night vistas. Overnight: Norwegian Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 14



This morning, we disembarked a cruise ship and began our day at Bongeunsa Temple, a serene Buddhist sanctuary in central Seoul. Established in 794 AD during the Silla Dynasty, it offers a peaceful escape from the city. Explore its exquisite architecture, including the main hall (Daeungjeon) and a pagoda adorned with ten thousand Buddha statues. Immerse yourself in Korean Buddhist culture with meditation sessions or a traditional tea ceremony. Then, ascend Lotte World Tower, Asia's tallest skyscraper, for stunning views of Seoul from its 123rd-floor observation deck. Explore the mall's luxury boutiques, dining options, and indoor theme park. Conclude your tour with a stroll along Seokchon Lake Trail, admiring cherry blossoms (if in season) and Lotte World Tower's reflection. Transfer to the airport and board our return flights home with memories and keepsakes that will last a lifetime.

**\$6,495** per person  
on double occupancy basis  
\*\$975 extra per single room  
\*\$500 extra for triple Room

-This Price Does NOT Include:

- Health, cancellation, or baggage insurance
  - Items of personal use (laundry, phone calls, and charger)
  - Meals not mentioned in the program
  - Items not mentioned above on the itinerary
  - Lunch on road, beverages (alcohol), gratuities for hotel, guide, or driver
  - Transportation to and from US airport
  - Passport/Visa costs (if any)
  - Trip cancellation protection
  - Travel insurance
  - Professional pictures taken
- This Price Does Include:
  - Round trip airfare, including all airline taxes
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  - Accommodation in 4-star hotels on H/B basis
  - Transportation in a Modern Coach for all the tour days with Wi-Fi
  - Excellent English and/or Spanish speaking tour guide
  - Entrance fees to all sights, as mentioned in itinerary
  - Portage at hotels
  - Trip brochure, itinerary, and name tag
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