



SPLENDORS OF JAPAN

End of trip HIROSHIMA (Historical)

12 Days / 10 Nights



DAY 1 : FRANCE → TOKYO

MAY 19TH 2009

Flight for Tokyo on regular flights **British Airways** (with layover at London). **Diner** and night on board..

DAY 2 : TOKYO

MAY 20TH 2009



Breakfast on board.

Arrival in the morning at **Tokyo**, capital of Japan which, in the beginning was, a small fisher town named Edo which became, in 1590, the centre from which the shogun exerted his authority. Tokyo has become an ultramodern metropolis, fascinating and changing continuously. Arrival and departure for a first discovery of the Tokyo. In the **neighbourhood of Harajuku, the trendy area of Japanese teenager**, visit of the **Meiji Sanctuary**. The sanctuary has been built at the heart of a flourishing park that include over 100 000 trees. It is dedicated to the Emperor and Empress Meiji. It is a building particularly representative of the Shinto architecture, that welcomes a big number of visitors. You will pass in front of the **Diet Building**, centre of the legislative power and the **Akasaka Guest House**, where guests of the

Emperor are coming as well as in front of the Tokyo Tower.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

The afternoon visit of the **Sumos museum**, official museum of the sumo association (except during competitions). Transit through the Akihabara neighbourhood, **Akihabara Electric Town**, where **more than 250 shops of devices and electric components** are gathered. Continuing with the visit of **Asakusa** and its famous **Senso-ji Temple**, very popular with its street bordered by shops. Continuing to the Hotel and lay-on.

Diner in the city. Night at the hotel.



DAY 3 : TOKYO

MAY 21ST 2009



Breakfast.

Day, lunch and diner free to **explore Tokyo as you wish**. You can discover its different neighbourhood, Shinjuku and its futuristic skyscraper ; the Royal Palace's gardens ; The Ueno park and its museum ; the Ginza area for the shopping... You can also mix to the pulsating life of Japanese people by moving using the subway. Optionally (payment on location), trip of one day at Nikko, sanctuary declared to the world patrimony of UNESCO.

Night at the hotel.



Breakfast at the hotel.

Early in the morning, departure for the visit of **Tsukiji's market, the biggest fish market in the world**. Full of activity, there you can find more than 450 fish species sold by wholesaler. Departure by bus for **Kamakura**. Founded by Minamoto Yoritomo, « chief general against the barbarians », Kamakura was officially the political centre of Japan under the Hojo era, in the XIIIth century. We will discover the **Daibutsu den** where is rising **the big Buddha of Kamakura**, one of the most remarkable examples of the Kamakura style. We will leave Kamakura for an hike across **the national park of Hakone**. Across landscape that inspired the mind of print masters .

Lunch in local restaurant during the trip.

Arrival at **Hakone**, town of **hot spring**, thermal station enjoyed since the IXth century.

Transportation and installation at the **ryokan your traditional**

Japanese inn.

Diner at the inn that own it's own bath set-up supplied by hot spring. Take advantage of it **to discover the joy of the Japanese « onsen »**.

Night in a **traditional Japanese room**.



Breakfast at the hotel.

Romantic cruse on one of the lake of Mount Fuji, the Ashi lake, where replica of old occidental ships are sailing.

Continuing through the **Owakudani Valley**, well known for its sources. This « **valley of the great boiling** » sink in the old crater of mount Kamiyama. The smell of sulphur take old of the throat. Steam clouds escape from cracks, hot spring water boil, making an alien landscape with the **Mount Fuji** as a background.

Then departure for Kyoto. **Lunch during the trip** with a **Japanese tray meal « bento »**.

Arrival at **Kyoto, the most beautiful city of Japan**. Welcome and lay on at the hotel. **Diner** and night.

Petit-



Breakfast at the hotel.

Road for **Nara, one of the major cultural sites of Japan**. This old capital is surrounded by wooded hills, temples and wonderful parks. Tour of the site with the : **Todai-ji**, that shelter a huge **Buddha statue, declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO**; **Kasuga Taisha Shrine**, which access is bordered by **3000 lanterns in stone and bronze**.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

Return **Kyoto**, by Fushimi. Pause at the **Geikkakan brewery** that **make sake since 1637** at Fushimi. You can visit the **Sake Museum**. Then, **visit of the cellar and sake tasting**. The Japanese sake, a wine of rice, go very well with the variety of Japanese dish. Fermented from rice and water, it is an alcohol that Japanese drink since immemorial times. It can be drink hot, obtaining a quicker effect and warming the complete body in Winter but can also be enjoyed cold.

Diner in a local Japanese pub. Night at the hotel.



Breakfast at the hotel.

Kyoto, cultural and historic capital of Japan, including more than two thousands temples and **declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO**. The modern city with wide avenues keep the geometrical plan inherited of the Heian period and inspired by the Chinese geomancy. Day devoted to the discovery of the city with **the Nijo-jo** (Nijo's Castle), residency of the famous Shogun Tokugawa and it's wonderful gardens ; **the temples of Kinkaku-ji or Golden Pavilion**, one of the most unforgeable vision of a visit of Kyoto; **Ryoan-ji and it's famous Zen garden**.

Lunch in a local restaurant of sushi.

Then visit of **the Sanju-sangen-do, declared national treasure by the Japanese government**. Visit of the **Kiyomizu-dera Temple**, overhanging the city and including many monuments declared significant cultural properties of Japan or national treasures.

Diner and night at the hotel.





Breakfast at the hotel.

Free day, lunch and diner, **to discover as you wish** the numerous temple and sanctuaries of Kyoto, their famous Zen garden or to stroll in the alleyway of the Gion area where you can still catch sight of geisha and maiko.

Night at the hotel.

DAY 09 : KYOTO / HIMEJI 和 HIROSHIMA

MAY 27TH 2009

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Breakfast at the hotel.

Continuing the discovery of Kyoto, the morning : les **Temples Nanzen-** (zen temple) and **Ginkaku-ji** (or silver pavilion), **declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO.**

Lunch in a local restaurant.

Road for **Himeji**. Arrival and visit of the amazing **castle of the White Heron**, built in the XIVth century ; the biggest and **most graceful medieval fortress of the country**, majestically placed on the border the Senban, was **declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO.**

Continuation for **Hiroshima** by JR train.

Arrival, transfer to the hotel on foot.

Diner on a local restaurant where you will be able to eat a delicious

« **okonomiyaki** » . Other **Japanese culinary pleasure**, kind of pancake with vegetables, meat, seafood or noodles.

Night at the hotel.



DAY 10 : HIROSHIMA / KURASHIKI

MAY 28TH 2009



Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit of the town of Hiroshima : the **Parc du Mémorial de la paix**, **declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO**, with the Dome (previous industrial promotion office) located at the explosion impact point and left in ruin as a testimony ; the impressive **Museum of Memory and Peace**, designed by the famous architect Kenzo Tange and dedicated to the atomic bomb.

Trip by train to Miyajimagushi, **ferry crossing of the Inside Sea toward the sacred island of Miyajima**, considered as one of the three most beautiful landscape of the archipelago.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

Visit of **the sanctuary on stilts of Itsukushima**, **declared to the world patrimony by the UNESCO**, announced by a massive red wooden torii, built in the middle of the bay ; at high tide the complete sanctuary seems to float like a giant ship. Hall of the « thousand tatamis », bump bridge, floored pagoda Taho-to will illustrate the various aspect of traditional Japanese architecture

Return by ferry to Hiroshima. At the end of the afternoon to get to **Kurashiki**. The time seem to have stopped in this little city spared by war, and rampant urbanisation she kept it's alleyways bordered by old wooden houses and canals decorated by gracious willow trees..

Diner and night at the hotel.

DAY 11 : KURASHIKI  TOKYO**MAY 29TH 2009**

[Breakfast at the hotel.](#)

Kurashiki, located south of Okayama between Kobe and Hiroshima, was a prosperous merchant city during the Edo era. Discovery of **the old historical neighbourhood of Bikan** which kept many houses and warehouse from this era, which some have been transformed in stalls and restaurants. Visit of the **Résidence Ohashi**, build in 1796 by a rich merchant, and stroll across the old quarters, along the canals crossed by beautiful stone bridges, punctuated by a stop for the discovery of the **Musée Ohara** : it shelter many rice granaries restored and transformed as exhibition rooms dedicated to Japanese craft industry (ceramics, toys...).

[Lunch in a local restaurant.](#)

Departure by JR train for Tokyo.

Arrival in the end of the day and set-up at your hotel.

[Farewell diner in a local restaurant](#) with « **chanko nabe** », **the meal that sumo wrestlers devours daily.**

Night at the hotel.

DAY 12 : TOKYO / FRANCE**MAY 30TH 2009**

[Breakfast at the hotel.](#) Transfer to the airport by bus with English speaking guide. Flight for France on regular flights **British Airways (with lay over at London)**. Arrival in France. Recovery of baggages.

[End of our services.](#)