

# *9-Day Japan Classics*

Tokyo, Mt. Fuji Hakone Park, Atami, Kobe, Nara, Osake and Kyoto...



**Gion:** Gion is the geisha district of Kyoto. It is not unusual to catch a glimpse of geisha donning full regalia stepping lightly through the streets at night. This part of town is bustling with nightlife where locals come to eat, shop and be entertained.



**Atami:** Atami (its name literally meaning "hot ocean") is a coastal, hot spring holiday spot for vacationing Japanese. It is in this area of the peninsula that one can find hot springs with a recorded history of more than a thousand years. The area is now recognized in Japan as a prominent hot spring center.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Luxurious and atmospheric accommodations:

- Three luxurious centrally-located hotels
  - Tokyo: Stay one night in the heart of Tokyo – Shinjuku. The hotel puts the city at your fingertips for easy access to shops, restaurants, and a major rail hub.
  - Kyoto: Stay one night in Kyoto, with access to explore the city.
  - Osaka: Spend an evening in Osaka – Shinsaibashi, located right next to the region's largest train station, providing you with access to most urban sights right at your doorstep.
- Two hot spring spa resorts
  - An evening in Atami - featuring oceanfront Japanese-style rooms with a breathtaking view found nearly nowhere else in Japan.
  - One evening in Lake Biwako Hot Spring Hotel; designed to resemble a large ship, playing into the theme of its lakeside locale with all rooms facing Lake Biwa.

### Special site arrangements:

- Explore Tokyo's stunning metropolis with a walking tour.
- See the ancient Japanese capital of Nara.
- Sample Osaka, the "Kitchen of Japan."
- Visit Kobe, a seaside trading town featuring a curious blend of Japanese-European culture.
- Experience the elegance of Kyoto, voted the top destination in Asia by TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2008™.
- The Imperial Palace of Kyoto.
- Experience a 2 hour 20 min Shinkansen (Bullet Train) ride to spare the 7 hour drive from Atami to Osaka at no extra cost (valued at over 110USD).

### Trip Flexibility

- Frequent departures available.
- Extended stays in Kyoto or Osaka are available per your request.
- This itinerary is ideal for traveling to other locations in Asia. Airfare add-ons to other Asian cities start from as low as \$50.

### Gourmet meals with local variety:

- Kobe Teppanyaki beef
- Tonkatsu (Fried breaded pork)
- Bento (lunch box) on bullet train
- Japanese-Italian cuisine
- Exquisite fusion buffet along Lake Ashi
- Yakiniku (Japanese-Korean barbecue)
- Kaiseki (traditional Japanese banquet dinner) with karaoke
- Western or Vegetarian choices also available.

Quick Reference	
<b>Pace</b>	<b>Slow – Fast</b> 
<b>Walking distance</b>	<b>Short – Long</b> 
<b>Sightseeing type</b>	<b>Cultural – Natural</b> 
<b>Ideal for</b>	<b>Families and couples visiting Japan for the first time.</b>

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**Shinsaibashi/ Dotonbori:** Shinsaibashi is the heart of Osaka's shopping district. The surrounding nightlife is constantly moving with vibrant excitement. The area offers hundreds of different food and snack options to choose from which can be enjoyed while watching local crowds moving about.

# TODAY'S TRAVELS

**Day 1 • Depart North America for Tokyo, Japan**

**Day 2 • Arrive in Narita, Tokyo**  
Welcome to Tokyo, Japan's largest metropolis! Upon arriving at the airport, you will be escorted to your nearby hotel by a Signet representative where you can take time to explore Narita or rest for tomorrow's sightseeing. (D)

**Accommodations:** Crowne Plaza ANA or Narita Hilton

“For the value, with hotels, meals, sightseeing, tour guide plus air fare, this was an exceptional trip. This trip was well thought-out, organized and well-managed.... All I can say is congratulations to Signet Tours for a fantastic and memorable vacation.”

-Michael & Beverly D. G. from Toronto, Canada (07-12-08)



Kobe Beef

**Day 3 • Tokyo**

Begin your tour at the majestic Imperial Palace, former site of headquarters for the Tokugawa Shogunate government and now home to Japan's Imperial Family. Then visit Asakusa's Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most festive temple. The surrounding streets are always festive and local snacks and trinkets can be found in the old shops. After a specially-arranged lunch in Asakusa, visit the world-famous Ginza, Japan's quintessential, up-scale shopping district lined with high-fashion/high-tech labels and department stores. Following an afternoon visit to the beautifully serene Meiji Shrine, enjoy free time in Shinjuku, otherwise known as Tokyo's playground. With a simple Shinjuku city guide provided by Signet Tours, you can explore the nightlife of this magical city on your own or join the optional walking tour. Here, you can also explore Shinjuku train station, the busiest in the world, and an amazing sprawling mini-metropolis in itself. (B, L)

**Accommodations:** Keio Plaza or Tokyo Hilton

**Day 4 • Hakone • Atami**

The morning is spent at Hakone National park, located at the foot of Mount Fuji. On clear days, Japan's highest peak can be admired from all three major attractions in the park: Lake Ashi, the Hakone Ropeway, and Owakudani Valley. We spend our night in Atami, a coastal vacationing spot for local Japanese. Surrounded by breathtaking ocean vistas, experience an onsen resort hotel where you can indulge in the amenities only found with hot spring hotels. Together dine over a celebratory kaiseki dinner and partake in the most loved and appreciated Japanese pastime ever invented- Karaoke! (B, L, D)

**Accommodations:** New Akao Onsen Hotel



Tsurugaoka Shrine

The **Shinkansen** is exactly the sort of train you'd hope to find in Japan- fast and powerful yet impressively elegant. The train runs at approximately 150+ mph in conditions so comfortably smooth you'll think the world outside is simply sitting still.



#### Day 5 • Atami • Osaka • Nada • Kobe • Osaka

Start the day with a ride on the Shinkansen Bullet Train, one of the fastest trains in the world. This experience transitions you between the modern Kanto region and the more traditional Kansai area where we will first visit Osaka Castle. As the largest castle in Japan, Osaka-jo offers fantastic views from the top floor and exhibits with information about Japan's reunification in the late 1500s. Venture into Nada, a district famous for its deliciously pure water and a key component in producing Japan's finest sake. Tour a local brewery and partake in taste-testing. Take an afternoon in the Japanese-European city of Kobe to enjoy Kobe Beef, teppanyaki style. Spend the remainder of the night relaxing at the Mosaic Kobe Harborland, an atmospheric rendezvous spot with a marvelous nightscape where locals come to shop, socialize, and stroll peacefully by the waterfront. (B, L, D)

**Accommodations:** Imperial Osaka

#### Day 6 • Nara • Kyoto

At Nara Park, a spiritual centerpiece of the city, play with free-roaming deer regarded as fabled messengers from the heavens. Inside the park is Todai-ji, a temple recognized as the world's largest wooden building, a UNESCO World Heritage landmark, and home to Nara Daibutsu, an enormous bronze Buddha statue. In Kyoto, see the intricate architecture of Nijo Castle up close. As the personal residence of the great Shogun Tokugawa, Nijo-jo was the actual site of abdication of the last shogunate. The evening is spent in Gion, the geisha district of Kyoto, a bustling late-night hangout with a traditional essence. Tonight after dinner, you will be provided with a map of Kyoto to discover the city on your own. (B, L, D)

**Accommodations:** Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto or Kyoto Hotel Okura

**“I would definitely take a third trip with Signet Tours. It allowed us to make better use of our time when traveling from Tokyo to Osaka. We were glad that almost all meals were included.”**

*-Christina C. from Fairfax, VA (06-13-08)*

#### Day 7 • Kyoto • Lake Biwa

Ride along the Sagano Romantic Train, an old railway showcasing the rushing rivers of the Hozogawa Valley directly from your seat. After arriving in Arashiyama, take a walk along the bamboo path, a fairytale-like forest. After lunch, visit the gold-plated Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion Temple) and its surrounding kaiyu-shiki (strolling gardens). At the Nishijin Textile Center, observe Japan's luxurious textile culture through a kimono fashion show. Spend the night at a lakeside Japanese hot spring resort where after changing to yukata, you can enjoy a Kyoto-style kaiseki banquet, an extensive meal created from delicate seasonal ingredients. (B, L, D)

**Accommodations:** Biwako Hotel

#### Day 8 • Kyoto • Osaka

Kiyomizu Temple is a peaceful and nature-filled playground of sorts, perfect for a morning stroll. At the main hall of Kiyomizu-dera discover the stunning veranda where Kyoto can be seen at your feet. Venture off to Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka, old-fashioned side streets of Kyoto lined with centuries-old shops carrying local specialties. At the Kyoto Imperial Palace, observe where Japanese Emperors once lived and classic royal architecture at its finest. Spend the night experiencing Osaka's nightlife in shopping and food districts Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori on your own with a simple city guide provided by Signet Tours. (B, L)

**Accommodations:** Swissotel Nankai Osaka

#### Day 9 • Osaka • Departure

You will be escorted to the airport for your next destination by a Signet representative. Sai-yo-na-ra! (B)



**Osaka Castle:** Now presented as a museum, the largest castle in Japan offers fantastic views from the top floor and exhibits with historical information about Japan's reunification in the late 1500's.