

# 7-Day Kansai

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Osaka, Kobe, Nara, Kyoto...



**Arashiyama:** Take a walk along the Bamboo Walking Path where tall, slender bamboo reeds tower towards the sun, creating a shaded enclosure around a balmy pathway. Rows and rows of soft, smooth colors of green line the road, making this scenic spot the archetype of Japanese tranquility.



**Nara:** Nara's main attraction is the Todai-ji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage landmark claimed to be the world's largest wooden edifice.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Luxurious and atmospheric accommodations:

- Luxurious centrally-located hotel
  - Stay in the Swissotel Osaka, located right next to the region's largest train station, putting access to most urban sights right at your doorstep.
- Hot spring spa resort
  - Spend 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:

- 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.

### 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:

- Unagi-don (Eel on rice) set
- Zosui (Japanese rice stew)
- Kobe Teppanyaki beef
- Tonkatsu (Fried breaded pork)
- Japanese-Italian cuisine
- Yakiniku (Japanese-Korean barbecue)
- Kaiseki (traditional Japanese banquet dinner) with karaoke

Call 877-388-1777 or visit [signettours.com](http://signettours.com) for further details



## Quick Reference

Pace	Slow – Fast ■■■■■
Walking distance	Short – Long ■■■■■
Sightseeing type	Cultural – Natural ■■■■■
Ideal for	Families and couples comfortable with Japanese culture and looking for a more in-depth experience.

Please visit us at [signettours.com](http://signettours.com) for more information on rating methods.





**Sagano Romantic Train:** We start the day off taking a slow, relaxing ride along the Sagano Romantic Train. The train follows the Hozogawa Valley with its rushing rivers and colorful, seasonal foliage. We hope you will find breezing through the natural valley a wonderful way to start off the day.

# TODAY'S TRAVELS

## Day 1 • Depart North America for Osaka, Japan

### Day 2 • Arrive in Osaka

Welcome to Osaka! Distinctive from Tokyo, Osaka is known as Japan's commercial and culinary capital. Upon arriving at the airport, you will be escorted to your hotel by a Signet representative where you can take time to explore the area or rest for tomorrow's sight-seeing. (D)

**Accommodations:** Ana Gate Tower

### Day 3 • Osaka • Nada • Kobe

A morning tour of Osaka city will give you a diverse view of life in modern Japan. After lunch, visit Osaka Castle, Japan's largest castle offering 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 – to tour a local brewery and partake in taste-testing. Visit Kobe to enjoy Kobe Beef, teppanyaki style. Afterwards, relax at the Mosaic Kobe Harborland, an atmospheric rendezvous where locals come to shop, socialize and stroll peacefully by the waterfront. (B,L,D)

**Accommodations:** Imperial Osaka

### Day 4 • Nara • Kyoto

At Nara Park, a spiritual centerpiece of Nara, play with free-roaming deer known 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. 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

“All in all, this was a great tour with well thought out itinerary. Sophie was a well rounded, knowledgeable guide, great attitude. [We ] would consider other tours in the future. Please keep up the good work! Thank you!”

-Van V. from Arcadia, CA (05-25-08)

### Day 5 • Kyoto

Kiyomizu Temple is a peaceful 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. After lunch, visit the gold-plated Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion Temple). At the Nishijin Textile Center, learn about Japan's luxurious textile culture through a kimono fashion show. 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



Kiyomizu Temple



Gion

#### Day 6 • Kameoka • Kyoto • Osaka

Ride along the Sagano Romantic Train, an old railway showcasing the rushing rivers of the Hozagawa Valley directly from your seat. After arriving in Arashiyama, take a walk along the bamboo path, a fairytale-like forest. 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)

**Accomodations:** Swisshotel Nankai Osaka

#### Day 7 • Depart from Osaka

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



**Kinkakuji Temple:** As if constructed from a million golden sheets of origami, the Golden Pavilion Temple (Kinkaku-ji) seems to hover above water. Built as a château for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, it now serves as a Buddhist temple.