

Cruise to Japan – travel in a small group tour from Tokyo to Osaka & fly home!



Package Highlights:

Complimentary upgrade from Inside to Balcony stateroom until 31 May with Cunard

Small group land tour - max 22 travelers guaranteed

Flights Osaka-Brisbane with Qantas in Economy - all taxes included



Cruise Includes:

- 16 nights in a stylish stateroom with elegant facilities
- All meals included
- Cruise stops include
 - Alotau, Papua New Guinea
 - Boracay, Philippines
 - Manila, Philippines

Land Includes:

- 10 nights First Class accom
 - 4 nights Tokyo
 - 1 night Kaga
 - 1 night Takayama
 - 4 nights Kyoto
- All transfers and sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned vehicles
- 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Wine with all dinners
- Services of local English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Comprehensive, guided sightseeing and entrance fees per itinerary
- Active itinerary with unique cultural features
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

DAY 1~ , Wednesday 03APR19 – Depart Brisbane on board Queen Elizabeth with Cunard.

Christened by her namesake, Her Majesty The Queen in October 2010, Queen Elizabeth is renowned for her comfort and luxury. Her sophisticated and spacious interior offers everything you'd wish for on board. From the skyscrapers and Spanish colonial architecture of Manila to the tribal people of Papua New Guinea, this grand voyage is a cruise to enlighten even the most experienced traveller. Enjoy four unique adventures ashore over 16 wonderful days on board the timeless Queen...

Every night: On-board

Meals: All meals included

DAY 17, Friday - Arrive in Tokyo

Arrive in dynamic Tokyo in the "Land of the Rising Sun"; transfer to your hotel. Time for rest and relaxation before an afternoon orientation meeting with your Tour Manager on the memorable land journey that lies ahead.

Tonight, dinner together with your fellow travellers welcomes you to Japan

Overnight: Tokyo

Meals: Dinner

**Cruise, Tour,
& fly trip
price AU
\$9,999 p.p**
Based on twin share

DAY 18, Saturday - Imperial Palace & Asakusa Kannon Temple

Start your day with the Imperial Palace, the former site of Edo Castle, where Samurai warriors lived from the 17th to 19th centuries, and primary residence of Japan's Imperial Family. Visit the East Garden, a precious jewel of nature within the hectic city centre and stop at the lovely Nijubashi Bridge that stretches over the moat in the outer gardens with its colourful displays of seasonal flowers. Later, travel to the imposing Asakusa Kannon Temple (Sensoji) enshrining a golden image of Kannon, the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy; its entrance is dominated by a massive paper lantern dramatically painted in vivid red and black tones. Walk along Nakamise, a major shopping area, centuries-old, where everything from souvenirs to genuine Edo-style crafts is sold. Finally, visit the serene Meiji Shrine nestled in a forested area, honouring the first Emperor of modern Japan and his Empress. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a Japanese style pub

Overnight: Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 19, Sunday - Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, Hakone National Park and Mt. Fuji Excursion*

A full day of breathtaking scenery as you drive south to Hakone, the most famous National Park in Japan. En route, stop to visit the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, situated in the wooded hills along the coast of Lake Kawaguchi. Here, view exhibits of the textile artist Kubota Itchiku's kimono creations, depicting the themes of nature and the seasons. Continue along the scenic roads of rural Japan to Hakone where a gondola takes you on the Hakone Ropeway to the Owakudani Valley's extraordinary volcanic zone. A short walking trail leads you to bubbling pools where you can purchase eggs cooked in the hot waters blackened by sulfur, said to prolong one's life by at least seven years. Enjoy a relaxing cruise around placid Lake Ashi. End your visit in Hakone with a drive along Cedar Avenue, a historic site of Hakone Old Tokaido Road that linked Tokyo and Kyoto during the Edo Period. Tonight, be adventurous! Explore Tokyo's incredible variety of cuisine, from simple noodle dishes and sushi to gourmet Kobe beef prepared by some of the world's top chefs

**Due to local conditions, the Mt. Fuji sightseeing might be altered. Details will be provided locally by your Tour Manager.*

Overnight: Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 20, Monday - Tsukiji Fish Market, Sushi Demonstration & Akihabara District

On today's tour of Tokyo, witness the stark contrasts of this dazzling city of ancient traditions coupled with state-of-the-art technology. To begin, walk the lanes of the hectic Tsukiji Fish Market, the largest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world! Afterward, enjoy a culinary demonstration led by a professional Sushi Chef. Learn the art of creating different varieties of sushi and sashimi and enjoy them for lunch afterward! Continue to the Ginza district, Tokyo's most celebrated upscale shopping, dining and amusement area. Then, Akihabara shopping district, a wonderland of electrical equipment shops, computer shops and animation studios that are attracting world attention

Overnight: Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 21, Tuesday - Kenroku-en Gardens, Kagaonsen Ryokan Experience

Board the famous Shinkansen, or "bullet train," that takes you to Kanazawa on the Noto Peninsula, with its winding cobblestone streets, Samurai residences, Geisha houses, lavish gardens and a flower filled open-air market. Stroll through Kenroku-en Garden, one of the country's most elite gardens with its elaborate water sculptures and designs. Continue to the Nomura Family House, where Samurai once dwelled. In Kagaonsen, an exceptional experience is awaiting you. Spend the night at a traditional *Ryokan* (inn), where you dress in *yukata* (bathrobe) that you wear to the *onsen* (hot spring spa.) You overnight in authentic Japanese rooms with *tatami* mats and sleep on a *futon* bed. Dinner together at the Ryokan is a full course *Kaiseki Dinner* highlighted by regional specialties

Overnight: Kaga

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 22, Wednesday - Thatched Farmhouses in Shirakawa-go, Takayama's Old Town

You travel from Kagaonsen to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go, known for its village of thatched *gassho-zukuri* (praying hands) farmhouses. Visit the historic village of Ogimachi and the ruins of its castle, dating back to medieval times. From atop the observation deck, see the amazing view of an entire settlement of thatched style houses. Lunch at local restaurant before driving to 16th century Takayama, with its meticulously preserved Old Town. Upon arrival, visit Takayama Jinya, a historic government house converted to a museum and the Yatai Kaikan Hall housing intricately designed wooden floats brought out only for major festivals. Later, you arrive at a scenic mountain resort for overnight

Overnight: Takayama

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 23, Thursday - Takayama's Historic District, Morning Farmer's Market, Bullet Train to Kyoto

The delightful town of Takayama, with its wealth of museums, galleries, and impressive temples, is often called "Little Kyoto." A walking tour includes the remarkably preserved Edo-period merchants' shops and houses in the Sanno-machi Historic District. Visit the morning market along the Miya River with farmers and craftsmen selling everything from vegetables to clothing and hand carvings. Across the river lies the Sanmachi-Suji (district) of sake breweries, cafes and immaculately preserved old private houses. Lunch en route before boarding the express train to Nagoya. Upon arrival, you will change and board the bullet train to enchanting and historic Kyoto, founded in the 7th century, one of the early capitals of Japan

Overnight: Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 24, Friday - Kyoto's Cultural Heritage & Tea Ceremony, Zen Meditation

Your first discovery in Kyoto is Kiyomizu Temple, known for its sacred waters believed to bestow health and longevity. At the shrine, one can also ensure success in love by walking between a pair of stones with closed eyes. As you stroll through the ancient streets of Sannen-zaka and Ninen-zaka, you're transported back in time to "old" Japan on these distinctive streets crowded with old wooden storefronts and tea houses. View the Zen Buddhist Temple of Kodai-ji's richly decorated interior, and the surrounding zen gardens. Next, familiarize yourself with Zen meditation, a calming practice deeply rooted in Japanese culture. Enjoy a traditional Tea Ceremony, where you participate in the ritualized art of preparing and serving tea, savoring several different varieties. Lunch at a local restaurant, followed by leisure time in Gion, Kyoto's most famous geisha district. Afterward, visit the impressive Heian Shrine, a Shinto shrine boasting the largest torii (gate) in Japan. It was built in 1895 to commemorate the 1,100th anniversary of the transfer of the capital from Nara to Kyoto

Overnight: Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 25, Saturday - Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Nijo Castle, Kimono Dressing

Discover the beautiful cultural heritage of Kyoto that has spanned the centuries. Head outside the city to Arashiyama bamboo forest. Here, take a ride through the stunning bamboo grove on a traditional Japanese rickshaw, a unique experience! Visit the celebrated Kinkaku-ji Temple, "the Golden Pavilion," and understand why this magnificent gold leaf covered temple was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to Ryoan-ji Temple with its mysterious Rock Garden before moving on to Nijo Castle, a residence of the first Tokugawa Shogun, with its ornate interior handcrafted with Japanese cypress. Afterward, dress in an authentic kimono during a visit to a Kyoto-style home. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure for individual pursuits

Overnight: Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 26, Sunday - Imperial Nara, Great Buddha Statue, Deer Park, Kasuga Grand Shrine, Maiko Dance Performance

Make a stop at Fushimi Inari Shrine before traveling by private bus to the 8th century Imperial capital of Nara, repository of Japan's cultural heritage, with eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a wealth of historic treasures, including some of Japan's oldest Buddhist temples. Arrive at the exquisite wooden Todai-ji Temple, home of the impressive *Daibutsu* (Great Buddha) bronze statue, rising over 50 feet high. You then continue to Nara (Deer) Park to see the over 1,000 tame deer roaming freely in the peaceful park. Visit the famous and beautiful Kasuga Grand Shrine displaying over 3,000 antique hanging bronze lanterns. Return to Kyoto and enjoy leisure time this afternoon before a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant, featuring a traditional *Maiko* (Geisha) dance performance that reflects the core of Japanese culture

Overnight: Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 27, Monday - Depart Japan

Sayonara! Transfer to Osaka for your Qantas flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Package available on 21 May 2018, offer is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply.

Call 07 5530 2864 or e-mail info@yourtravelclub.com.au now to reserve your space.