



📍 Lake Ashi & Mount Fuji, Japan

7 nights

📍 **\$5,495*** p.p.

Departs Toronto/Vancouver:
Apr. 17, 2020

Group size: 24 maximum

🚗 Visits to:

Osaka - Nara - Kyoto - Nagoya -
Hakone - Mount Fuji - Tokyo

✔ What's Included:

* Roundtrip airfare

- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- Osaka: three-night 4-star hotel accommodation
- Nagoya: one night 4-star hotel accommodation
- Mt. Fuji: one night 4-star hotel accommodation
- Tokyo: two nights 4-star hotel accommodation
- Seven breakfasts, and one dinner
- Private motor coach transportation
- Local English-speaking tour guide
- Merit Travel tour host**
- All taxes, fees and gratuities

HIGHLIGHTS OF JAPAN

By land: Osaka to Tokyo

HOST: ANNI DELIMA

Discover the hidden treasures of Japan, a place where ancient traditions are fused with modern life, with its hyper-modern cities of millions, high-speed rail, pristine villages, beautiful mountains and spectacular historical castles. Highlights of this tour include visiting Kyoto and the UNESCO listed Kinkakuji Temple, staying in a ryokan, bathing in natural hot springs and of course, exploring Tokyo!

You will be immersed into the rich cultural legacy, impressive World Heritage Sites and incredible natural beauty and a unique cultural experience unlike any other.

Single supplements available!
Call your local Merit Travel expert.



ACTIVITY LEVEL:
SIGHT-SEEING

APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers who are physically fit and comfortable with longer days of touring by transport and by foot and do not require mobility aids.

Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

DAY 1 | Apr. 17, 2020 | Toronto/Vancouver - Osaka

Board your overnight flight to Osaka, Japan.

DAY 2 | Apr. 18, 2020 | Osaka

Upon arrival, you will meet your local representative and transfer to your hotel for check-in. The remainder of your day is at leisure.

Accommodation at Kansai Airport Washington Hotel (1 night)

DAY 3 | Apr. 19, 2020 | Osaka - Nara (B)

This morning you will visit Nara and tour the Todai-ji Temple, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples constructed in the 8th century. Step foot in the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall), housing the world's largest bronze Buddha statue of the Buddha Vairocana. After, wander through Nara Park where over 1200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling to Osaka. In Osaka, visit the Osaka Castle which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century, before being dropped off at Dotonbori, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture.

Accommodation at Osaka Plaza Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 4 | Apr. 20, 2020 | Osaka (B)

Today your entire day is at leisure to explore on your own or take an optional excursion.

Optional Kansai Culture Excursion (\$300 p.p.)

Visit Kiyomizu Temple also known as Pure Water Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most famous temples in Japan. One of the things that stands out is the wooden stage in the main hall that is 13 meters above the hill. During the spring time, it will give you an amazing view of the cherry blossoms. Following this visit Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine and walk through the famous vermilion Torii Gates.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, visit the Gion District and see the beauty of Maikos in kimono. With only a few Geishas remaining, Gion is one of the few places you might catch a glimpse of these elusive figures. You may choose to rent a kimono (USD\$50 p.p.) for great photo opportunities.

DAY 5 | Apr. 21, 2020 | Osaka - Kyoto - Nagoya (B)

After breakfast you will depart by the Shinkansen (bullet train) for Kyoto. Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. Countless temples, shrines and other historically priceless structures survive in the city today. Enjoy a moment of quiet reflection at the vibrant Heian Shrine then head to absorb the sacred ambience of Kinkaju-ji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring a shining golden pavilion and a pond-centred garden. Kinkaku Temple has two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Enjoy a sweeping view of the entire city of Kyoto from its lofty terrace and grand walkways that





meander through the Higashiwama mountain's foothills. Then, experience the Japanese special tea ceremony. It is a choreographic ritual of preparing and serving Japanese green tea, called Matcha.

Continue to Nagoya and visit the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology and learn about the history of Toyota as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots.

Accommodation at Nagoya Tokyu Rei Hotel or similar (1 night)

DAY 6 | Apr. 22, 2020 | Nagoya - Hakone - Mt. Fuji (B, D)

Today you will visit Oshino Hakkai. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, though porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Enjoy the picturesque views of Mount Fuji in close distance while on board a cruise on lake Ashi, a crater lake famous for its views of the famous peak. Afterwards, visit Gotemba Peace Park to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, and the Hakone Shrine. Lunch will be on your own along one of the many stops or service areas on the highways where you can enjoy an abundance of unique eats and snacks that will surprise you. Finish the day with a true cultural experience in your Hot Spring hotel. Dress in Yukata robes and enjoy a traditional dinner.

Accommodation at Kimiyoshi Hot Springs Hotel (1 night)



DAY 7 | Apr. 23, 2020 | Tokyo (B)

Visit the Meiji Shrine in the morning, dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Later, stroll through the Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. Then walk along the famous 820-ft long Nakamise shopping street where you can explore the lines of stalls selling different Japanese-styled goods and souvenirs. Your last stop today is Tokyo Metro to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city.

In the evening, experience Japanese tradition & cuisine by enjoying an optional Japanese Kaiseki dinner excursion.

Optional Japanese Kaiseki dinner excursion (\$160 p.p.)

Kaiseki is a traditional multi-course Japanese dinner which balances the taste, texture, appearance, and colours of food. Only fresh seasonal ingredients are used and are prepared in ways that aim to enhance their flavor. Dishes are also beautifully arranged and garnished.

Accommodation at Tokyo Bay APA Resort or similar (2 nights)

DAY 8 | Apr. 24, 2020 | Tokyo (B)

Today your entire day is at leisure.

Optional Kamakura and Yokohama excursion (\$275 p.p.)

Explore two of Japan's most captivating cities on a full-day tour. After pick-up from your hotel, travel southwest by coach to Kamakura, a picturesque seaside city nestled in forested hills on Sagami Bay renowned for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and rich history. Next, continue to Yokohama, Japan's second largest city. See the Red Brick Warehouse, where an early 20th century custom building now houses stylish shops, and stroll in waterside Yamashita Park.

DAY 9 | Apr. 25, 2020 | Tokyo - Toronto/Vancouver (B)

Today you will transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- g. Personal injuries or death;
- h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- a. 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- b. 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- c. 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.